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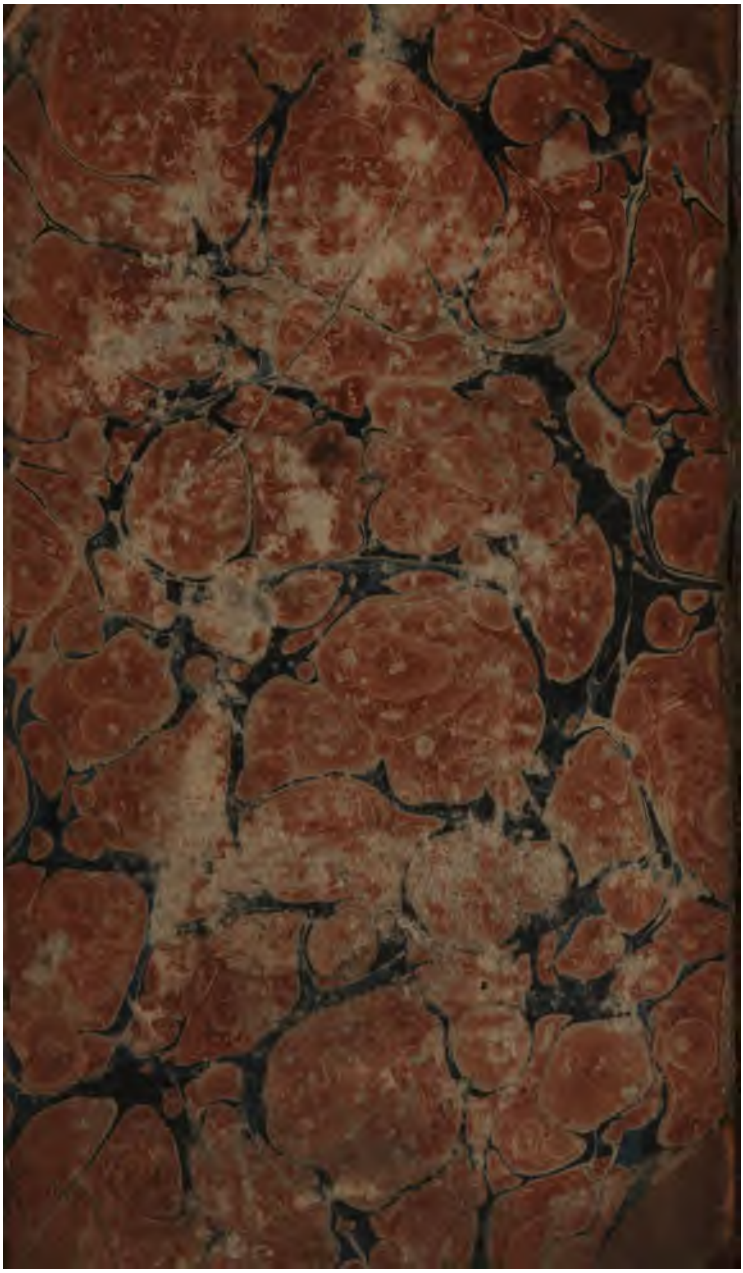

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THE

SUPPOSED DAUGHTER.

VOL. II.

THE

SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

OR,

INNOCENT IMPOSTOR.

In which is comprised the

ENTERTAINING MEMOIRS

OF

Two North-Country FAMILIES of DISTINCTION,

In a Series of Thirty Years.

A NEW EDITION.

In THREE VOLUMES.

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THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER; OR, INNOCENT IMPOSTOR.

CHAP. XV.

A Dark Dungeon was the Lodging of the unfortunate Priſoners, and although they had not broke Faſt all Day, they could obtain nothing, being told by the Jailor, he would ſend the Priſon-allowance next Morning, for that they were not intitled to any by their Cuſtom, the Day of coming in. The Prieſt attended them there, leaving ſtrict Orders, that neither any of their Countrymen, nor any other Perſon whatſoever, ſhould ſee, or ſpeak to them, on Pain of the Diſpleaſure and Cenſure of the Lords Inquiſitors; who

were already acquainted with the Crimes and Obſtinacy of thoſe damnable Hereticks; that himſelf, out of Charity, would come daily to reconcile them to holy Church; and that ſpecial Care muſt be taken to debar them of Pen, Ink, and Paper.

The Prieſt's Directions were too well obſerved; they ſaw not an human Face for fifteen Days, except the cruel Prieſt and the Jailor, who once a Day brought the poor Pittance allowed; conſiſting of a ſmall coarſe Loaf of very bad Bread, weighing about three Pounds, and as much dry'd ſtinking Fiſh, for a Meſs of four Men; with a Tub of Water, holding about three Gallons to ſerve them all.

On the Return of a Meſſenger from *Oporto*, Father *Gaubagan* informed them, with a ſecret Joy in his Countenance, that no Ship with *Moors* on board was arrived there, or in any other Part of *Portugal*. This was melancholy News, as they depended on proving their Innocency by her Arrrival. He

charg-

charged their Countrymen with murthering Mr. *Burne* (who had been at large, ever ſince their coming to *Liſbon*) to prevent his giving Teſtimony. But ſaid, it would little avail, ſince their Guilt plainly appeared by the Falſity of the ſeveral Stories they had been detected in; adding, ſome Judges would come on the morrow to hear their Cauſe, and give Judgment adequate to the Heinouſneſs of their Offences.

The Threatenings of ſo ſpeedy a Tryal and Execution, under theſe Circumſtances, induced them to join in a Requeſt, that a little Time might be granted; hoping, either the Arrival of the Ship, or her being heard of, if loſt, or taken by the Enemy, would prove to the World, how unjuſtly they were charged with Actions their honeſt Hearts deteſted. He refuſed; ſaying, they were hardened Hereticks, who could expect no Favours from him. Soon after the Jailor was ordered to bring the eight Sailors taken up at Sea; and the Prieſt endeavoured to perſuade them to confeſs, that

the reſt were guilty of the Murthers, before they came to them: aſſuring, if they would do that, and turn true Catholicks, he would undertake to procure them Life and Liberty.

To the firſt, they ſaid, they might be guilty for aught they knew, but could not charge them to be ſo; and as to the laſt, they would conſent with all their Hearts, provided he would keep his Word. Having thus prevailed on the Weakneſs of theſe poor ignorant Men, he detained them near ſix Hours, in abjuring the Proteſtant Religion, and admitting them into that of the Roman Church. On their coming back, they made no ſcruple of relating what they had done; nor of the Promiſe that had induced them thereto; the reſt were all ſenſibly afflicted, to find how artfully *Gauhagan* had impoſed on them.

Richmore, in a pathetic Speech, repreſented the Baſeneſs of the Action, in betraying their Countrymen; demonſtrating, that, if they muſt unjuſtly ſuffer, (notwiſtanding the deluding Promiſes

of

of the Prieſt) it was impoſſible any of them could eſcape the ſame Fate; concluding, with admoniſhing and conjuring them, if it muſt be ſo, to die like *Engliſhmen*, without owning themſelves (under the moſt cruel Tortures) guilty of the inhuman Fact, whereof they were accuſed. The deluded Sailors, convinced and aſhamed of their Weakneſs, deſired Forgiveneſs of their Fellow-ſufferers; and declared a fixed Reſolution of neither abandoning their Religion, nor Countrymen, though Threats and Promiſes had unwarily drawn them almoſt to both.

In the Morning early, Father *Gaubagan* brought one of the moſt zealous of the Inquiſitors, to be an Eye-witneſs of the meritorious Action of his having reconciled eight deſperate Hereticks to the Church; but ſending for them as before, he was told, none of them would have any Thing to ſay to him. Greatly ſurpriſed, he ordered Lights into the Dungeon, requiring their immediate Attendance: where he had the Mortification to hear

from their own Mouths, that they all heartily repented of the baſe, ignominious Recantation they had made; profeſſing no Conditions whatever ſhould prevent their living and dying in the Proteſtant Religion; being ſatisfied of the Purity of the one, and the ſuperſtitious Idolatry of the other. He ſeemed greatly confounded, having loudly boaſted of what he had done to the ſeveral Fraternities in the City. He looked at Mr. *Richmore* with Eyes full of Malice and Reſentment, ſaying, this laſt Action was ſufficient to incur Damnation, and had filled up his Cup of Iniquity.

Soon after, three Perſons, two of whom were Churchmen, came by the King's Order to try them, attended by Lawyers Clerks, and Algazils. They were brought into a Hall two and two, chained together, and the ragged, naked, and deplorable Appearances they made, might poſſibly prejudice their Cauſe. A long Arraignment, full of bitter Invectives, was firſt read in *Portugueſe*, and then given to Father *Gaubagan*, to do

the

ſame in *Engliſh*. It was founded on the Depoſition of *Burne*, with many Aggravations; charging them, alſo, with procuring his Murther by ſome of their Countrymen, though in Truth he had made his Eſcape, well knowing his Villany muſt have been diſcovered. On pleading Innocency to every Accuſation, they were told by the preſident, that the beſt Way was to confeſs, and thereby ſave themſelves from Tortures, that the Court would be obliged to inflict, in caſe of Obſtinacy. That for his Part, he did not wonder, a Parcel of ſuch inhuman, wicked Wretches ſhould pretend Innocency in Hopes of eſcaping the Puniſhment due to ſuch enormous Crimes: yet believed, when they had heard the ſeveral Depoſitions againſt them, which proved their Guilt beyond all Contradiction, nothing but that Blindneſs of Heart, with which all Hereticks are curſed, could prevent their owning a Truth ſo evident.

Immediately the Affidavit of Captain *Juan De Lopez* and his Officers,

was read; ſetting forth, the taking of the Ship, the Condition ſhe was in, and the Perſons on board; the Examination before him, and the particular Confeſſion of *Patrick Burne*, *&c.* The next was *Gaubagan*'s corroborating theirs; adding many exaggerating Circumſtances; concluding, they were ſuch vile, obſtinate Hereticks, all the good Admonitions beſtowed upon them were ineffectual; and verily believed, the Court, on the Proofs before them, would be of his Opinion, that there remained no Doubt of the Priſoners being all guilty of the cruel Murthers laid to their Charge. The Surgeon's was likewiſe read, wherein he depoſed, that *Patrick Burne*, the Evidence againſt them, had no Marks of Circumciſion, as falſly alledged by the heretical Priſoners. And laſtly, was an Affidavit of two *Alguazils*, and a black Woman; ſetting forth, they met *Patrick Burne* on the *Romanadoes*, about a Week before, and ſaw ſix or ſeven *Engliſh* Sailors cut him in Pieces with their Hangers, about Eleven o'Clock at Night, and

and throw his Corps into the River; after which, they went off in their Boat, before any Aſſiſtance could be got to ſecure the Aſſaſſins.

The Preſident informed them that, in Facts ſo manifeſt, the conſtant cuſtom of the Court was, to enforce Confeſſion by Torture; yet out of Lenity, they would allow twenty-four Hours before they proceeded to that Extremity; and hoped the Sentence, ready to be pronounced, would awaken a ſincere Acknowledgement of their Crimes, and Repentance of the wicked, bloody, and abominable Lives they had led. The Lay-Judge roſe up to give it, when Mr. *Richmore* and the reſt deſired to be heard; complaining, that no Opportunity had been given them to make their Defence; but their Mouths were ſtopped by the Officers and Guard; being told, nothing but Confeſſion would be attended to by the Court, in Conſideration of the ſtrong Proofs before it.

The Preſident proceeded to acquaint them, that it was the unanimous Sen-

tence of the Commiſſion, that they were all guilty of the Murthers and Piracy laid to their Charge; for which Offences, they were judged to ſuffer Death; which they decreed ſhould be executed on the third Day after this their Tryal (having firſt undergone the Torture, 'till ſome of them had confeſſed) in the following Manner; They ordered and decreed they ſhould be led three Miles from the City, to a vacant Place, near *Belle-Iſle*, and there burnt to Death, and their Aſhes ſcattered in the *Tagus*, that their Land might not be defiled with the leaſt Remains of ſuch bloody Hereticks.

The Court broke up, ordering them again into the Dungeon, without permitting any Reply. Theſe cruel Proceedings convinced them of the little Juſtice they were to expect, and threw them into the utmoſt Deſpair of proving their Innocency, before any other Tribunal than that of the Omnipotent, in whoſe Preſence they expected ſo ſhortly to appear.

Ac-

Accordingly the next Day, the eight Seamen, inveigled by the Prieſt, in Hopes of Life, were the firſt on whom they exerciſed cruel Tortures, in the Preſence of *Gaubagan*, and one of the Inquiſitors; ſeven underwent it, one by one, heroically, bravely declaring, they preferred Death, under all the agonizeing Pains they could inflict, rather than own themſelves guilty of ſuch deteſtable Crimes; the eighth, no longer able to endure theſe ſevere Pains, offered to confeſs; on which he was taken down from an Engine, that extended his Limbs on a Wheel; yet, on Inquiry into Particulars, diſavowed what had been extorted from him on the Rack, declaring, he knew not what he ſaid there, and that all the Mercy he craved, was immediate Death; but if that could not be obtained of their mercileſs Hands, he was ready again to mount again the terrible Engine which he well knew would ſoon put an End to their Cruelties.

At length, finding Threats and Promiſes ineffectual, he was ſent to the reſt;

the Perſons conducting him, having Orders to inform the other Priſoners, that he had confeſſed; and by the Lenity of the Judges, no more would be put to the Torture. The poor Man would have juſtified himſelf before them, but the Iron Door was inſtantly clapped to, to prevent it; he then related the above Account, notwithſtanding an unjuſt Uſe was made of this pretended Confeſſion. The zealous Inquiſitor, Prieſt, Goaler, and Tormentors, confidently reported throughout the City, that the *Engliſh* Hereticks, Murtherers and Pirates, had at laſt owned their Guilt.

The enſuing Night was ſpent as became Chriſtians, and dying Men. They were all brought out early in the Morning, to ſuffer the Sentence paſſed upon them, being guarded by a Number of Soldiers, that encompaſſed them round, with a Deſign, as it is believed, none might be permitted near enough to hear their dying Words. This was a needleſs Caution; for the exceeding Clamour of the Populace was ſuch, in upbraiding

braiding them with Curſes and opprobrious Names, that it was impoſſible any of them could be heard. Theſe unfortunate People having advanced about a Mile from the City in the Road to *Bell-Iſle*, Providence interpoſed, to ſave the Innocent, by bringing Captain *Pedro* and his Men, who had juſt landed from an *Engliſh* Man of War, that had met and took the Rover; thereby releaſing him and his Crew from Slavery.

On Enquiry what could occaſion the Aſſemblage of ſuch a Number of the Inhabitants, he quickly underſtood, that ſeveral *Engliſhmen* were carrying to Execution, for murthering Captain *Pedro* and his Crew, which, he was told, appeared by undeniable Witneſſes, and their own Confeſſion. He inſtantly cryed out, Hold my dear Countrymen, theſe Men are innocent: I am that Captain *Pedro*, and thoſe are ſome of my Crew, whom you ſee with me, which you ſuppoſe murthered. Then, breaking with Violence through the Guard, embraced Mr. *Richmore* and Dr. *White*, informing

forming the Commiſſary and Officers (to ſome of whom he was well known) of his Ship being taken by the *Moors*, after an obſtinate Engagement of many Hours; that he was gallantly aſſiſted therein by four of thoſe, unjuſtly charged with Murther and Piracy; and told the Manner of his Deliverance, humane Treatment, and great Honour of the *Engliſh* Captain, in reſtoring every Valuable taken from him by the Infidel.

The Commiſſary refuſed to return back, 'till the King's Pleaſure was known, who had ſigned a Warrant for Execution, yet promiſed to delay it 'till then; ſo moved on with his Priſoners, to the Place aſſigned. Captain *Pedro* mounted a Friend's Mule, and made ſuch Expedition, that he overtook them, in Sight of the fatal Pile, bringing one of the King's Officers with him; who brought Directions from his Majeſty to bring them back to the Priſon that Night; and on the Morrow, Orders ſhould be ſent for their Diſcharge, on ſigning the proper Certificate. The Import

port of which was, that the Priſoners had daily received the King's Proviſion as well as his royal Bounty, and had been uſed with Humanity. This Bounty, in Conſideration of their unjuſt Sufferings was one hundred Moidores. But it went through the Hands of ſo many Courtiers, Officers, and Jailors, that no more than twelve remained to be divided. Mr. *Richmore* refuſed to ſet his Name (as did the reſt) to the iniquitous Certificate. Captain *Pedro* coming to the Priſon, to be preſent at their Diſcharge, in order to gratify the Sailors, perſuaded them to comply, intimating, that otherwiſe they might be detained a long Time; and aſſuring them, it would be in vain to expect any Relief againſt Perſons ſo potent.

Captain *Pedro* generouſly gave to each of the Seamen, taken on board at Sea, to navigate the Ship to *Liſbon*, ten Moidores; and twenty a-piece to the two, who ſo bravely hazarded their Lives in the Engagement. Perfectly ſatisfied, they all returned Thanks, and entered on board the Ship of War in the *Tagus*.

Mr.

Mr. *Richmore* and the Doctor, at Captain *Pedro*'s Requeſt and Invitation, were preparing to go to his Houſe, when the Captain was called out by the Jailor, and informed, that it would be neceſſary for him to go from thence, that he might take Doctor *White* with him; but he had juſt then received Orders to detain Mr. *Richmore* for an Examination before the Council, touching Matters of State; nor could he, or any Body elſe, be permitted to ſee him again, 'till that was done. The good Captain was greatly ſurpriſed, and truly concerned at this unforeſeen Event, and begged, that he might, at leaſt once more, ſpeak to Mr. *Richmore*; but that being abſolutely denied him, the Doctor was brought, and both ordered forthwith to depart. What befel afterwards to his Enlargement, I ſhall chooſe to relate in Mr. *Richmore*'s own Words.

It is not eaſy to conceive, ſaid he, the Grief and Amazement I was under, on being left behind by the friendly Captain, without taking Leave; and that I alone ſhould be detained, after my innocent

nocent Fellow-Sufferers had obtained their Liberty. I ſpent the Day in the moſt profound Melancholy, bitterly bewailing my being depriv'd of an Opportunity of informing my dear *Eleanora*, that I ſtill ſurvived the ſeveral Dangers and Misfortunes attending my Voyage. As I could not ſuggeſt any Cauſe for my being detained, I was greatly puzzled and confounded to aſſign Reaſons for that, or for my Friends leaving me in ſo abrupt a Manner. At length I rightly conjectured, that it muſt proceed from ſome malicious Contrivance and Artifice of the Prieſt, which was indeed the Truth; for he and the zealous Inquiſitor had inflamed the holy Brotherhood, by informing them, that I had, in the Paſſage, endeavoured to deſtroy all Veneration for the bleſſed Virgin, St. *Antonio*, and the reſt of the Saints and Martyrs, by many falſe and blaſphemous Arguments, tending to pervert his Majeſty's faithful, Catholic Subjects; to prove which they had many of the Ship's Crew to produce.

This

This heavy Charge proceeded from my having laughed at the Ignorance of the Sailors, and the mad Pranks they played with St. *Antonio*; having often ſeen them pay their fervent Devotions to the little Image in fair Weather, and favorable Winds; yet, when the contrary happen'd, they never failed of whipping it with Rods, and towing it overboard by the Neck at the Stern of the Ship.

This was thought a ſufficient Crime by that righteous Tribunal; and they ordered, I ſhould be kept where I was, 'till ſent for at Night by ſome of their Familiars; judging it both dangerous and wicked, to let ſuch a deſperate Heretic eſcape without condign Puniſhment. My Proviſion was brought at Noon by the Gaoler, but I could not obtain from him the Cauſe of my Detention. About Midnight three Men entered my Dungeon, threw a Cloak over me, and I was conveyed to another Part of the Inquiſition; where I continued near ſix Weeks, before an Examination. At the firſt I was

only

only aſked, whether I profeſſed myſelf a *Mahometan* or a *Jew:* On my declaring myſelf a *Chriſtian*, I was ordered to be carried into a Cell, with a ſmall Light, and adviſed to apply myſelf by Prayers to the bleſſed Virgin, Saints and Martyrs, to inſpire me with Grace, to renounce the Heretical Errors I was brought up in; and I ſhould be aided therein by a good Father, appointed for that Purpoſe; and I was told, that it was out of Charity and Indulgence, this Favour was granted, that I might be the better prepared for my Trial ſome time hence. On deſiring to know my Accuſation, I was told, the Proceedings of the Court were holy, juſt, and equitable; that Informations, highly criminal, had been exhibited againſt me, and which nothing but my own Confeſſion and Repentance of, could prevent their enforcing.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

ABOUT an Hour afterwards my Door was opened, and Father *Gaubagan* was introduced. He pretended to rejoice, that his Countrymen were acquitted of the Murthers and Piracies they were ſuſpected of; then deceitfully ſeemed to pity the deplorable State and Condition he found me in, both of Body and Soul; inſinuating, he was grievouſly afflicted, to ſee a Fellow-Creature, by his own perverſe Hereſy, plunging into an Abyſs of eternal Deſtruction; giving alſo many hypocritical Aſſurances of Friendſhip, and Readineſs to render all Services and Conſolation in his Power, notwithſtanding the ill Return hitherto made, to his always well-intended good Offices.

I was quite aſtoniſhed at the Impudence and Wickedneſs of the Man, who had been the ſole Inſtrument and Cauſe of my Sufferings. I replied, in conſequence of his Promiſes, that I hoped he would

would truly inform me what occaſioned this ſecond Impriſonment. The arch Prieſt heſitated ſome Time, and inſtead of anſwering my Queſtion, ran into Encomiums on the holy Office; whoſe Juſtice, Piety, Charity, and Good-will he extolled, ſaying, it was what none but the moſt hardened Sinners and reprobate of Mankind had ever denied; as indeed they were the only Perſons, on whom they exerciſed Chaſtiſement; and even not on them, 'till all gentle Means had proved ineffectual. Conſider, my Son, ſaid he, thoſe wholeſome Tortures, which the Body endures, are not inflicted to gratify Malice, Revenge, or any other human Paſſion; on the contrary, all Severities, though neceſſary, pierce the Hearts of that merciful Tribunal; and are diſpenſed purely out of pious, and religious Love of Mother Church to all her Children, in order to bring them to Repentance, and everlaſting Salvation.

Let me appeal to yourſelf. Would you blame thoſe Parents, or doubt of their Affection, who ſhould correct

their Sons for heinous Crimes? I believe you would not, but rather commend them, as uſing the beſt Means to deter them from committing the like again: Our ſpiritual Mother the Church does no more, and is more ready to pardon, than the moſt indulgent natural one. Then harden not your Heart, my Son, become a dutiful Child unto this tender Mother; confeſs your Faults, renounce your Errors, and I will undertake, you ſhall ſoon be at full Liberty, and likewiſe initiated into the Society of *Jeſus*, of which I am a painful, though unworthy Member. Caſt but the Miſt of Hereſy, and the black Cloud of Prejudice, ariſing through Education, from before your Eyes, and I am perſuaded, that you will ſhine out a bright Ornament to our holy Order; for nothing leſs can be expected from the ſolid Learning, diſtinguiſhed Judgment, and ſublime Genius, wherewith you are endowed.

I heard this artful harangue without the leaſt Interruption; returning no Anſwer

fwer to his fallacious Aſſertions, ſophiſtical Arguments, or flattering Concluſions; only remarking, his Zeal carried him too far, to remember my firſt Requeſt; aſſuring him, that a faithful and true Information why I was brought here, would leave me little room to doubt of his future Sincerity. Being thus preſſed, and finding, no Evaſion would ſatisfy, he put his Hands acroſs his Breaſt, declaring, on the Word of a Prieſt, to be as ignorant of the Cauſe as myſelf; neither was he acquainted with my being in the Inquiſition, 'till he was ſent for by the Lords Inquiſitors; receiving their Orders to uſe all ſpiritual Endeavours, by good and charitable Admonitions, to reclaim a *Chriſtian* Soul from the Devil and utter Perdition; and that he hoped, the Advice already given, together with the Grace of the bleſſed *Jeſus* and his Mother, would enable me to work out my Redemption.

Being no longer able to conceal my Reſentment for the Treatment, I and my ſuf-

fering

fering Companions had met with, through the falſe Inſinuations, malicious Inventions, and unheard of Perſecutions of this obdurate Monſter, I recapitulated as many of the ill Offices done my Countrymen and ſelf, as came to my Knowledge; plainly demonſtrating that our ſevere Impriſonment, ſcandalous Sentence, barbarous Uſage, with the cruel Tortures innocent Men were put to afterwards, proceeded intirely from his Malice, and cruel Diſpoſition; adding, as I had Reaſon to believe my preſent Misfortunes flowed from the ſame Channel, he muſt be ſenſible, what Opinion I had of his Veracity, or Promiſes of Friendſhip and Service.

He left me in great Heat and Confuſion; and, to my Comfort, I ſaw him no more. I ſince heard of his making a Voyage to the *Brazils* with his former Captain. I remained full nine Months after, in the ſame Cell, without being viſited by any Body, except my grim Keeper, who frequently informed me, my Trial was at hand. Captain *Pedro*,

on

on finding where I was, laboured for my Deliverance, but without Succeſs. He then acquainted the new *Engliſh* Conſul with my Impriſonment (the former being dead, before our Arrival at *Liſbon*) and complained to the King of the Detention of one of his Majeſty's Subjects in the Inquiſition, and was promiſed Redreſs; yet, after frequent Solicitations, he was told, that the holy Office declared, they had no *Engliſhman* in their Cuſtody.

The generous *Pedro*, convinced how ineffectual the Intereſt of his Friends had proved, made uſe of a Stratagem, that fortunately ſet me at Liberty, without his having been known to have any Concern in it. It was done in the following Manner, as I was afterwards informed.

Baptiſta Lopez acted in the double Capacity of Keeper and a Familiar, under whoſe Charge, I and ſeveral other unhappy Priſoners remained. He uſed frequently to viſit at Night, an Inamorato he kept, who happened to be Siſter to Captain *Pedro*'s Maid-Servant; her, he

privately employed, to make an Offer to this Woman of fifty Moidores, if ſhe could prevail on her Gallant to favour my Eſcape: in ſhort, the Sum was conſiderable, and the Gold tempting. After ſwearing her to Secreſy, he agreed to let me out the next Night, in the Dreſs of a Capuchin, along with ſeveral of that Order, who were then to attend the Hoſt. Accordingly, my Door was unlocked, the Habit thrown in, and a Paper, directing me to put it on, and follow the Hoſt, which would ſoon paſs by me. When in the Street, I was to repair to the *Romanadoes*; where I ſhould, exactly at eleven o'Clock, meet Doctor *White*. Juſt as I was ready, the Proceſſion paſſed by, and I joined promiſcuouſly in it. When I arrived at the Gates, I was under dreadful Apprehenſions, for *Lopez* was there, narrowly inſpecting the Countenances of every Body, as they went through; however I paſſed undiſcovered to the Street, and repaired immediately to the *Romonadoes*.

It

It was near the appointed Time, before I got thither; tho' I waited more than two Hours afterwards, without ſeeing or hearing any Thing of my Friend. My Ears being ſuddenly accoſted with the claſhing of Swords, I turn'd and ſaw, by the glimmering Light of a Lamp, three Bravoes attacking a ſingle Man, who with his Back againſt a Wall, defended himſelf with uncommon Reſolution. Convinced of his being an *Engliſhman* by Tongue and Dreſs, I came ſoftly up behind them, wreſted a *Spade* out of one of the Rogues Hands, with which I luckily brought another to the Ground, who fell down motionleſs; when inſtantly the two other Villains took to their Heels. I was glad to find my Countryman unhurt; who addreſſed me in Terms full of Gratitude, doubting whether it was a Man or his Guardian-angel in the Habit of a Churchman, that had been his Preſerver; he begged I would not leave him till informed where to pay his Acknowledgments. I put him in Mind, that it was improper to continue longer where we were; offer-

ing my Attendance to his Lodgings. He reply'd, I have none in the City, my constant Custom being to lye on board my Ship; the Boat waits now hard by, to carry me off, and if you, Reverend Sir, will favour me with your Company aboard, it will give me the highest Satisfaction.

I instantly agreeing thereto, we made the utmost Expedition to the Water-side, and arrived at his Ship, about three o'Clock in the Morning. He there informed me of his having sold a Parcel of Goods to a Person for ready Money, who called himself a Merchant, tho he had been, and sent a Multitude of times for it to no Purpose; that being ready to depart two Days ago, he had threatened to complain to the *Alcade*. Hereupon produced a Letter from the Merchant, wherein he promised to pay the Money, on calling at his House in the Evening. When he came, the Merchant behaved with the utmost Civility, made many Apologies for his disappointing him before, and insisted on his partaking of a Colla-

a Collation he had provided, which would ſoon be ready; declaring the Pleaſure he took in entertaining ſo agreeable an *Engliſh* Captain, in his poor Habitation, in Return for thoſe he had received on board; and many other Excuſes, for making it ſo late before the Supper, or Payment of the ſeventy Moidores. That he being very uneaſy, the other gave many Aſſurances, there could be no Danger in ſtaying, as his Brother and Servant, well armed, would ſee him ſafe to the Boat. He was thus kept, much againſt his Inclinations, yet had no Notion of his Deſigns. At parting, he wiſhed him a Thouſand *Bon-jours* and *Bon-voyages*. On entering the *Romanadoes*, where fortunately we met, he was attacked by thoſe three Men the Moment the two Guards ran away, as no doubt had been before concerted; that my kind and generous Aſſiſtance ſaved his Life, otherwiſe he muſt have fallen a Victim to the Villainy and Avarice of this pretended Merchant, whom, he was ſatisfied,

had laid this Scheme to rob and deſtroy him.

Finding he ſtill took me for a Clergyman, in undeceiving him, I mentioned both my Name and Country; at which he fell into an Exclamation, flying to my Embraces; crying out, Dear *Bob Richmore*, how glad I am to ſee you! Having a hundred times carried you in my Arms when an Infant, is it not miraculous that Heaven ſhould have ſent you thus far, in a critical Moment, to ſave a Wretch, deſerving the worſt of Deaths many Years ago? Behold in me the profligate *William Wilſon*; that ungrateful Nephew of the beſt of Uncles, that would have imbrued his Hands in the Blood of that good Man, that ſecond Father, had not Providence interpoſed, to protect ſuch innate Goodneſs.

He then eagerly demanded, if he was ſtill alive? And wept bitterly, when I told him that, before I left *England*, he had changed this Life for a better; and ſhed many other Tears while I informed him of divers Events that had attended his

Uncle

Uncle *Wilſon* and Family, in his Abſence, in the Manner before related, and I thought he would have expired in the Relation; inceſſantly bewailing, and crying out, O dearly beloved Uncle and Siſter, all I poſſeſs in the World I would freely give could you have known before you died, how much my Heart abhorred the Crimes I muſt have ſtood guilty of in your Opinions. To give ſome Check to his Sorrow, I recounted my own Misfortunes, which brought freſh Tears from his Eyes. He replied, My dear Friend, be aſſured, both my Perſon and Fortune are ſincerely devoted to your Service; looking on the Means in my power, as the luckieſt Incident of my Life. The following Day was ſpent in converſing on our ſeveral Affairs.

Among other Things, Captain *Wilſon* intimated his Intention of ſhortly returning home with his Wife and Children, who remained in *Virginia*; intreated I would go thither along with him, and bear them Company to *England*; adding when he ſailed from home, he deſign'd

this as his laſt Voyage; Providence having bleſſed his Induſtry, whereby his Circumſtances were in ſuch a Situation, as would have enabled him to have lived genteelly in his native Country, and provide handſomely for his Family there, without the Aid of the oppulent Family-Eſtate, which was now, by my Information, become his. He made many generous Propoſals, to induce me to return with him to *Berwick*; declaring I had ſaved the moſt worthy Woman from Widowhood, and his dear Children from becoming fatherleſs, who might otherwiſe have been undone by his Loſs.

I returned Thanks for his kind Offers, and endeavoured to prove our happy Meeting, as providential on my Side, and my Obligations to him much greater, than any received by my accidental Interpoſition between him, and thoſe cowardly Villains: That his own Courage and Reſolution would likely have extricated him out of their Hands, without any Aſſiſtance; but my Life and Liberty ſolely depended on

on the fortunate Rencounter. Tho' infinitely obliged by his kind Propoſals, I could come to no Reſolution, 'till I had ſeen my Uncle *Goodman*, the *Portugueſe* Captain, and my Friend Doctor *White*, whom I imagined ſtill in the City, by the Paper delivered in the Inquiſition.

I requeſted Captain *Wilſon* to go to Captain *Pedro*'s Houſe, and inform him and the Doctor, of my Enlargement, and where I was. The next Day he went thither, and found Captain *Pedro* extremely ill in his Bed, but was introduced to his Room, on Information it was an *Engliſh* Gentleman wanted to ſpeak with him. He ſeemed tranſported with Joy at Mr. *Wilſon*'s News, declaring he had been under the utmoſt Concern for my Safety; that he knew of my Eſcape, he being the Perſon who was to have met me at the *Romanadoes*, but was prevented from ſo doing, by an apoplectick Fit, which deprived him of Senſe, 'till the Time was over. He deſired I might be kept very private, or be put on board the Man of War; for if the Inquiſitors

ſhould get Scent of me, they would certainly take me from thence. He took Notice ſome Familiars had ſearched his Houſe in the Morning; and not finding me, and ſeeing him ſo ſick and weak, went away, without ſuſpecting his being concerned in my Deliverance; for even Suſpicion would certainly endanger his Ruin with that tyrannical Tribe; that Doctor *White*, ſix Months paſt had left *Liſbon*, grieved and ſurpriſed that no Tidings could be heard of me; ſaying, his Name was made uſe of only to conceal his own.

Then delivering a Bag with two hundred Moidores, ſaid, they were my Property, recovered from the *Moors*; hoped as he continued mending, in two or three Days to pay a Viſit to his Friend, whom he honoured and loved. Captain *Wilſon* returned, charmed with the generous Behaviour of the honeſt *Portugueſe*. We conſulted what was proper to be done from his Advice, and in the End concluded, it would be ſafeſt for me to remove immediately on board the King's

Ship;

Ship; where I was received with Politeneſs and Civility, by the Commander, his Officers, and ſome Land-officers that were to be debarked at *Barcelona*, to join the Earl of *Peterborough*, who was gone before with the Fleet and Army. Mr. *Wilſon* had taken Care to ſupply me plentifully with Cloaths, Linnen, *&c.*

In a few Days, I had the Pleaſure of embracing Captain *Pedro* in my Arms: And in the two Hours Converſation we had alone, he informed me, what means were uſed for my Deliverance, and of the Anxiety he had been under, on being obliged to leave me at the Priſon, in the Manner he was compelled to do. When he had concluded, and I was making my ſincere Acknowledgments, he reſumed the Diſcourſe, by taking Notice, that tho' it was diſagreeable to be the Meſſenger of ill News, yet Friendſhip obliged him to let me know my Uncle *Goodman* died ſix Weeks before my Arrival at *Liſbon*, poſſeſſed of Money and Effects, to the Amount of many Thouſand Moidores; and that the very ſame

Day, all was taken poſſeſſion of by the Church. Under ſuch Pretences, he much doubted whether any Heir could recover them, they having publickly avowed he owned himſelf a Jew in his laſt Moments, which intitles them to an Adminiſtration of his Eſtate.

He deplored the Cruelty and Injuſtice of thoſe ravenous Harpies, whoſe Power and Authority were too great for their Sovereign's Controul; and verily believed, as I had declared myſelf Nephew to Mr. *Goodman*, it was one of the chief Reaſons of my long Impriſonment, which might have been for Life, to prevent any Demand or Impeachment of what they had robbed my Family. He adviſed me, if I intended to proſecute my Right, never to truſt my Perſon in the City, altho' his Majeſty's Protection might be obtained, as it would be an ineffectual Security againſt their public Proſecutions, or private Machinations. Greatly troubled at this unfortunate Event, I aſſured my friendly Adviſer, I had no Thoughts of commencing a

Suit,

Suit, in a Kingdom where partial Eccleſiaſtics were ſupreme Judges; nor would I ſet a Foot on Shore, while I remained in their Country. I intimated a Deſign of proceeding with the Ship to *Barcelona*; having been almoſt perſuaded, by Captain *Travanion*, to buy an Enſign's Commiſſion, and would gladly have his Opinion before I embarked in that Profeſſion. After a conſiderable Pauſe, he, being a Man of Gallantry, replied, As you are a young Fellow of Spirit, able to ſerve your Queen, and deſirous of ſeeing the World, I don't think you can do better; having often heard the *Engliſh* Army is a good Academy for Youth.

Captain *Travanion*, in whoſe Cabin we were, joined us, he having complimented me with Half his Bed. On coming firſt on board, the Ship being much crowded, the Converſation turned on the Army, its General, and the preſent Expedition; which introduced his former Diſcourſe of recommending me to a Soldier's Life. To encourage me there-

thereto, he ſaid, he had a Pair of Colours now vacant in his Company, and he would undertake to fill it up, with my Name at a moderate Price, and that not one Shilling ſhould be paid, 'till ſigned by the General, and approved by his Colonel.

Captain *Wilſon* came in, bringing from Shore a Boat profuſely loaded with all Kinds of Proviſions. Before *Pedro* left us, he gave him and Captain *Travanion* a preſſing Invitation to dine at his Houſe the next Day; at which Time he took an Opportunity of privately aſking the latter in the Garden, what was the Purchaſe of a Pair of Colours; and being told, he inſtantly put the Money into his Hand, ſaying, he was convinced of his Honour, therefore as a Gentleman, requeſted, he would not inform me of the Commiſſion being paid for, 'till my Arrival in the Army. During their Abſence, I put the Letters I had writ to my dear *Eleanora*, and all my Friends, on board

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a *London* Galley of Force, bound homeward, and wrote others, to send by the Pacquet, which was to sail in four or five Days.

They returned highly pleased with their Reception, and Entertainment. As it was now known in the City where I was, Captain *Pedro* was obliged to be cautious of his Visits; yet he ventured twice to see me in the Night; we remaining eight Days longer in the *Tagus* with contrary Winds. That generous Friend, not knowing how plentifully our Mess had been supply'd by Captain *Wilson*, sent a Fisherman, loaded with the choicest of Wines, dried Fruits, Sweetmeats, and live Stock, *&c.* in such Abundance, we knew not what to do with it, or where to stow such a Cargo; together with a Box, in which was a Piece of fine *English* Scarlet Cloth, with rich Silver Lace, sufficient to trim two Suits. The whole was directed to Captain *Travanion*, with a Letter desiring our Acceptance thereof, as a Token of his Friendship and Respect; wishing us a

bon.

bon Voyage and Succeſs. Captain *Wilſon* brought his Ship to an Anchor cloſe along-ſide of us, for the Conveniency of often having me on board of him. While we ſtaid, Captain *Travaſius* generally made a third Perſon. And as we were curious to hear, what neceſſarily muſt have befel a young Gentleman, leaving Friends and Country, deſtitute of Money and Recommendation, we requeſted Captain *Wilſon* would relate his Adventures: He complaiſantly replied, to oblige us he would endeavour to recount the various Accidents and Viciſſitudes of Fortune, that had happened during the ſixteen Years he had been abroad; yet feared our Patience would be tired long before he could go through with them, as he thought there was little entertaining or edifying in the Relation.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

CAPTAIN *Wilſon* began his Narration with ſaying, It will be needleſs to inform you, Mr. *Richmore*, of the Motives which induced me to leave my native Country, and an indulgent Uncle, that had brought up my Orphan Siſter and Self with the greateſt Tenderneſs and Affection; nor of the ungrateful Return I made to ſuch Goodneſs. This you muſt have often heard, as well as the wicked Conſpiracy I had entered into (in Conjunction with the bad Woman, I unwarily was drawn in to make my Wife, before I had attained my ſeventeenth Year) to murder my dear Uncle. Don't imagine, Gentlemen, I am about to juſtify myſelf in the actual Intention of committing the moſt execrable Act a Mortal could be guilty of; no, I never think of it without the utmoſt Horror and Remorſe; and the Tears you now ſee flow, have conſtantly attended the Remembrance. I ſhall ever remain thankful, that the Execution of

this

this bloody Deſign was prevented by a timely Diſcovery.

Confederates, in moſt criminal Actions, generally tax each other with being Inſtruments of bringing them into the Commiſſion of the Crimes they are to ſuffer for, as hoping thereby, to appear leſs guilty in the Eyes of the World, and be entitled to more of their Compaſſion. I will aſſure you, Gentlemen, this is not my Intention, in giving you a ſhort Sketch of the Character and Diſpoſition of my unhappy Wife, to which I am aſſured you are perfect Strangers, as my Knowledge of her commenced ſoon after I was ſent to *Cambridge*, and the fatal Knot was privately tied by her Contrivance, at a Village twelve Miles from thence, in leſs than three Months after my coming to College.

The following Hiſtory of her Life (at my Requeſt) was given me by a worthy, ancient Inhabitant, who began his Account by ſaying, he was acquainted with her Father, who was a Clergyman poſſeſſed of a ſmall Living, about ſix Miles

Miles from thence. His indiſcreet Marriage with a ſtrolling Actreſs, was a Bar to all farther Preferment. At his Death, about ſeven Years afterwards, he left two Children unprovided for. The Widow made what Money ſhe could, by Sale of her Goods, and immediately left her Children and the Country, and it was ſuppoſed, returned to her old Courſe of Life.

The Infants were taken care of by the Pariſh, 'till a Subſcription was raiſed by ſeveral charitable People for their Maintenance.

Miſs *Cleopatra*, (for ſo her Mother would have her named) at twelve Years old, was put Apprentice to my Relation and Neighbour, Mrs. *Cox*, a Milliner, a prudent, diſcreet Woman. Much about the ſame Time, her Brother, who was named *Mark Anthony*, (by the Whim of his Mother) was bound to a Watchmaker in *London*; and the Lad, as I have heard, ſerved his Time out with Diligence and Honeſty. I wiſh I could ſay as much of his Siſter, continued the

old

old Gentleman, and though I abhor Calumny and Detraction, I think myſelf under an indiſpenſable Neceſſity of diſcloſing to you, the diſorderly Courſe of Life and bad Morals of the deceitful *Cleopatra*; and in Hopes that you will never again enter the Shop of that inchanting Sorcereſs.

I ſhall paſs over her former Behaviour before ſhe came to Mrs. *Cox*, tho' I have heard, it was far from commendable, her Miſtreſs, before ſhe had been ſix Months with her, frequently complaining to me of the Pride, Vanity and Perverſeneſs of her Temper, and of her Forwardneſs and Impudence in giving and taking indecent Liberties with the young Fellows; and that it was her accuſtomed Method to laugh at, and deſpiſe Advice and Commands to the contrary; nor could all her Prudence and Circumſpection prevent her Ruin, in the firſt Year of her Apprenticeſhip; ſhe being detected in the Commiſſion of Lewdneſs with a profligate Collegian in a Church Porch by Mr. *James*, the then Beadle; but as he knew her,

her, he had Compaſſion on her Youth, and divulged the Secret to none but Mrs. *Cox*, who with Tears in her Eyes, informed me of it, begging, that I would in the Evening come to her Houſe, when I ſhould find none at Home but herſelf and *Cleopatra*; that ſhe hoped, ſome good Admonitions from me, joined to her own, might be inſtrumental in reclaiming her from ſuch wicked Courſes for the future.

I went to her Houſe accordingly, and no ſooner was the Girl deſired to come into the Room to us, and ſit down, but ſhe pertly enquired the Cauſe of being called in with ſo much Ceremony. O, *Cleo*, *Cleo*, ſays her Miſtreſs, too well you know the Cauſe; your Memory is not ſo bad as to forget what Mr. *James* juſtified to your Face laſt Night. O, Madam, replied ſhe, if that be all, I'll ſoon convince you before this Gentleman, that what he alledged, was a confounded Lie. Then running to the Window, catched up a Bible, that lay there, and ſwore upon that, with many dreadful Imprecations, that ſhe had not either ſeen or

ſpoke

ſpoke with the Perſon deſcribed by that Villain; nor was ſhe within the Church Porch with him, or any Body elſe; but coming by it, on returning home from delivering the laced Hood, ſhe was ſent with, *James* would have forced her into that Place, with an Intent to be rude with her. She wiſhed many Times over, that ſhe might die the moſt ignominious Death in the World, if every Syllable ſhe had told us was not true; adding, her not complying with his beaſtly Will, and the Fear he muſt be under of being juſtly expoſed by her for it, muſt be the only Reaſon of his telling her Miſtreſs that infamous Story, whoſe Ears, ſhe ſaid, were always open to every idle Report to her Prejudice, how falſe ſoever. And further charged her with a Deſign of ruining her Reputation, in order to get rid of her, that ſhe might take another Apprentice in her Room, which would be Twenty Pounds more in her Pocket; concluding, (while we both ſtood in Amazement at her Impudence) that if ever ſhe heard this Thing mentioned again,

again, that Minute ſhe would go to the Mayor, and make Oath of what ſhe had related to us, concerning *James* and her Miſtreſs; then flounced out, and ſhut the Door ſo hard after her, as to make the whole Houſe ſhake.

I had much ado to ſupport Mrs. *Cox*, who was ready to faint; and was ſo ſurpriſed myſelf, that I knew not what to adviſe, being perſuaded, this dangerous Slut would ſwear any Thing; however, we ſent for *James*, and informed him of all ſhe had ſaid; and the poor Man (of whoſe Innocence there was no Reaſon to doubt, he having lived fifty Years in the Town, and with a fair and honeſt Character, brought up a large Family) was aſtoniſhed, that a Creature ſo young, could form ſuch a plauſible Tale, without the leaſt Foundation of Truth; offering, at the ſame Time, to go along with us, to make an Affidavit of what he had before informed Mrs. *Cox:* But that good Woman would not conſent thereto, as it would unavoidably have made a great Noiſe in the Town, and

end

end in the Ruin and Deſtruction of *Cleopatra*'s Character.

Mrs. *Cox* died about a Year afterwards, though not without Suſpicion of foul Play; but as it was never made appear, I ſhall only ſay, that the continual Vexation, occaſioned by that Girl's unruly Behaviour, might poſſibly ſhorten her Days. Her Executors turned over *Cleopatra* to a young Milliner juſt ſet up, and ſhortly after joined in Partnerſhip with her, but of whom I chooſe to ſay little, as ſhe is ſince married to a young Gentleman of Faſhion and Fortune; only remarking, that the three Years theſe Ladies lived together, their Shop was the conſtant Rendevous of moſt of the raking Students of Quality, and indeed of many others, who could afford to ſpend much Money.

The Ladies both dreſſed extravagantly fine, and kept two genteel Nags, to racket about the Country to Horſe-Races, or other expenſive Diverſions, of which the whole Town took Notice, being ſatisfied, that the Profits of the

Shop

Shop could not ſupport them in the Manner in which they lived. However, while Mrs. *Martin* continued in the Buſineſs, ſome ſeeming Decency was obſerved; but ſince ſhe left it, and *Cleopatra* has been ſole Miſtreſs, ſhe has taken in a Partner as bad as herſelf; and the Houſe is now become quite infamous, and the Reſort only of Perſons of the moſt abandoned Lives. She has been frequently ſent for before the Vice-Chancellor, and reprimanded on Account of many Riots and Diſorders in her Houſe; but has hitherto found ſo many Friends among the great ones, to whom ſhe has diſpenſed her Favours, as to preſerve her from being turned out of the Town.

Her new Partner left *Cambridge*, three Months ago big with Child, and how *Cleopatra* has eſcaped the ſame Fate, is the Admiration of every Body. I ſhall conclude this long Narration, continued the old Gentleman, with aſſuring you, her general Character among all good People is, that ſhe is proud, vain and

ungrateful; immoral, malicious, and revengeful; has all the bad Qualities and Vices of the worſt of her Sex, without one of their Virtues.

You may judge Gentlemen, ſaid Mr. *Wilſon*, the Confuſion and Trouble I was in, when I had a Confirmation of theſe Truths from many others; and it was owing to an over-ruling Fate I did not lay violent Hands on myſelf. However, it affected me ſo much, that I fell into a violent Fit of Sickneſs, which I ardently wiſhed might deprive me of a miſerable Life. My dear Uncle, hearing of my Diſorder from my Tutor, imagined *Cambridge* did not agree with me; he therefore ſent Directions for my returning home as ſoon as I was fit to travel. My Wife often viſited me in my Illneſs, and I informed her of his Commands, at which ſhe pretended to be greatly concerned, and gave me many Aſſurances, how irregular ſoever her former Life had been, no Prudence and Diſcretion ſhould be wanting in her future Behaviour. This Promiſe, deluſive

as it was, got the better of all my Resentment, so much was I enamoured with the outward Beauty of this Angel of Darkness. We made reciprocal Promises of constant Love and Affection, agreeing to keep our Marriage still secret, 'till my Uncle's Decease. I gave Directions where her Letters to me should be left, took a tender Adieu, and set out the next Morning for *Berwick*.

A Servant with Horses arriving for me, I was kindly received by my Uncle and Sister. About two Months afterwards, I received a Message, that a young Gentleman from *Cambridge* wou'd be glad to meet me at a certain Inn at *Berwick* the next Day. I accordingly went, and, on coming into the Yard, a Stranger, as I then thought him, accosted me with, Mr. *Wilson*, I am glad to see you, I hope you will excuse the Liberty I have taken in sending for you: I have some Business to communicate, if you will please to walk into another Room. I did as he desired, wondering what he might want with me. However, I did

not remain long in Suſpenſe, for I ſoon diſcovered this Stranger to be my Wife, dreſſed like a gay young Fellow, who, with a tender Embrace, declared, ſhe could no longer bear ſo ſevere an Abſence from one ſhe ſo dearly loved; that the Diſguiſe I ſaw her in, was only put on, the better to conceal our Secret from being ſuſpected; and then, with many endearing Expreſſions, prevailed on me to ſpend the Night with her at Lodgings ſhe had taken in the Town.

I was ſo infatuated as to conſent; ſending a Meſſage home, that with my Uncle's Leave, I ſhould gladly remain at *Berwick* all Night, with a young Gentleman from *Cambridge*. I had his Conſent for that Time, tho' I often afterwards lay many Nights abroad, without his Knowledge.

By my Perſuaſions, ſhe removed to a lone Houſe kept by a Farmer's Widow, within about two Miles of ours; where I daily reſorted with my Gun in my Hand, under the Pretence of Sporting. She ſoon grew weary of this ſolitary Life, and

and by Degrees diſcloſed to me, that an unfortunate Quarrel had happened between two young Students of Quality at her Houſe, in which one of them received a mortal Wound, of which he died the next Day; that the other, and her Maid, were committed to Priſon, which would likewiſe have been her Fate, had ſhe not luckily eſcaped the ſame Night in Man's Cloaths; pretending to be quite ignorant of the Cauſe of their falling out, as ſhe was in her own Room and they in the Kitchen: Tho' it appeared afterwards, by the Evidence of the Maid on the Trial, that the Deceaſed was actually in Bed with her Miſtreſs, and that the other came in and enquired for his Chum; and ſo loudly inſiſted on ſpeaking with him, as to be heard above ſtairs: This brought her Bed-fellow down, with a ſharp-pointed Knife in his Hand, who demanded his Buſineſs: Nothing more, replied his Friend, but that you would go to College with me, and leave the Houſe and Company of an infamous Wontan.

Highly provoked at this Anſwer, he flew at him, ſwearing he would ſtab him to the Heart, for making ſuch an injurious Speech. A Struggle enſued, in which they both came to the Ground; and in the Fall, the Maid ſuppoſed the Wound muſt have been received, for the wounded young Gentleman immediately cried out, My own pernicious Knife, I fear, has found a Way to my Heart. Dear Chum, I forgive you; pity a Wretch your Friendſhip and good Advice could not reclaim: Adieu for ever; fly and ſave yourſelf, for I am a dead Man; the Truth of which he owned to ſeveral Perſons, before he expired. On theſe Circumſtances the other was juſtly acquitted, but, as I have ſince heard, ſhortly afterwards broke his Heart with Grief.

My Wife intimated to me how impracticable this Accident rendered her Return to Buſineſs, and that I muſt think of ſome Means of ſupporting and maintaining her as my Wife, otherwiſe ſhe muſt of Neceſſity inform my Uncle

of

of her being ſuch. She obſerving the Terror and Confuſion I was under, proceeded to tell me ſhe could no longer agree to conceal her Sex, and live in the Manner ſhe now did; inſiſted on my raiſing a ſufficient Sum of Money to cloath her genteelly in her proper Dreſs; of my providing a ſuitable Place to board her in, and furniſhing her with Pocket-money, and every other Requiſite.

I let her know my Inability to comply with her Demands, on which ſhe fell into a violent Paſſion; taxed me with being the moſt ungrateful Man living, to a young Creature, whoſe only Fault was loving me too well, having refuſed many advantageous Matches on my Account. I omitted nothing I could think of to pacify her, begged a little Patience, repreſented the ill State of Health and declining Condition of my Uncle, which were ſure Indications he could not live long.

She interrupted me by curſing my Uncle; and ſwearing like a Dragoon, that

ſhe would be maintained like a Gentlewoman; inſiſting every Thing ſhe required ſhould be done, or all ſhould out directly. Frightened at theſe Menaces, and dreading a Diſcovery more than Death, I promiſed to do all in my Power to oblige her; and proteſted, altho' I had no other Means of complying with her Deſires, but by robbing my Uncle of a Parcel of Jewels, valued at more than ſeven hundred Pounds, which were my deceaſed Aunt's, and had long lain ſealed up in a Parcel, in a private Drawer, in his 'Scrutore, (indorſed on the Back, For my dear Niece *Maria)* which I undertook to put into her Hands, the firſt Time I was truſted with the Key, as I frequently was to fetch any Thing from thence.

Too ſoon I had an Opportunity of performing my Promiſe; and on delivering them to her, ſhe artfully made up another Parcel, as near in Bulk and Weight as poſſible, incloſing it with the ſame Paper that came off the other, and I conveyed it to the ſame Drawer.

She

She ſeemed highly pleaſed with this Mark of my Affection (as ſhe called it) and propoſed ſetting out for *London* directly, to diſpoſe of them, and furniſh herſelf with modeſt Apparel, befitting her Condition; and then return back to board in ſome Village, within ten or twelve Miles from me, that I might be the better Judge of all her Actions.

Her extreme Impatience to be gone with this Prize, carried her away the Day following; tho' not till I had borrowed five Guineas to defray the Expences of her Journey. At parting, ſhe ſhed ſo many Crocodile-tears, and uttered ſo many Proteſtations of her Love, with Promiſes of becoming the moſt virtuous and affectionate Wife living, that I could not help both hoping and believing ſhe really deſigned being ſo.

When ſhe had left me, my Conſcience conſtantly accuſed me of the villanous Robbery I had committed; yet was under little Apprehenſion of my Uncle's finding it out, as he had ſealed thoſe Jewels up ſoon after my Aunt's

Death, without once opening them afterwards.

CHAP. XVIII.

TWO Months paſſed before I heard any Thing from *Cleopatra*, then I received a Letter informing me ſhe got ſafe to *London*, and had diſpoſed of Part of the Jewels to a Jew, bought ſome Cloaths, and got into her proper Garb; that the Diſpoſal of the reſt, and fitting herſelf with Neceſſaries, would require her ſtaying ſome Time longer in Town, but promiſed to return with all poſſible Expedition, when ſhe had ſo done; concluding, with freſh Aſſurances, how good and virtuous ſhe would always continue, and how loving and affectionate I ſhould ever find her.

At the Expiration of three Months I had another Letter, with many Excuſes for not writing ſooner, filled with flattering and deceitful Promiſes; intimating ſhe had ſold the remaining Part of

of the Jewels, and was ready to ſet out, having taken a Paſſage in a Collier, which was to ſail in two or three Days; that ſhe ſhould be landed at *Berwick*, where ſhe ſhould ſtay till ſhe ſaw me; that on Enquiry for her, by the Name of *Drake*, at the *Black Bull*, I ſhould find Directions where ſhe was; and by that Means I found her, in ſomething more than three Weeks afterwards, at a Lodging ſhe had taken two Miles from thence.

On being introduced to her Room, ſhe pretended to faint away in my Arms, with exceſſive Joy to ſee me again; and her tender Embraces (while ſhe bathed my Face with Tears) appeared ſo ſincere to me, that, I muſt own, I thought myſelf really happy with theſe Teſtimonies of her Love; and returned them on my Part, with thoſe truly ſo. My own Inclinations would have been ſufficient (for I ſtill loved to Deſtruction this bewitching Beauty) to keep me all Night with her, had ſhe not re-

queſted my Stay, with all the endearing Arguments ſhe was Miſtreſs of.

You'll not be ſurpriſed that my Youth and Folly, ſo highly charmed, the next Morning broke out into Raptures of the Pleaſures wherewith ſhe had bleſſed me: This Opportunity ſhe artfully took to inform me the Jewels were ſold for near three Hundred Pounds; that ſhe had laid out in Cloaths about ſixty, and had not expended above thirty more, by the frugal Manner which ſhe had lived in; yet an unfortunate, unforeſeen Accident had happened the Day after her writing to me, which almoſt broke her Heart: In ſhort, it was no leſs, ſhe ſaid, than the Loſs of all ſhe had left in the World; for the Girl whom ſhe took to wait on her, had in her Abſence from home, forced open her Trunk, and run away with all the remaining Money. In this great Dilemma, and not being able to hear any Tidings of the Thief, ſhe was obliged to ſell many of her Things again to bring her down to *Berwick*: Concluding, theſe unlucky Cir-

Circumſtances made a further Supply neceſſary for her Maintenance; therefore hoped I would immediately find ſome Way of doing it.

I was ſo infatuated as to believe this forged Story, and under the greateſt Grief and Concern for the late Loſs, as I had ſo little Means of raiſing any more; but after a great Deal of Perplexity, I determined to borrow twenty Pounds in my Uncle's Name, of your Father who was then in *London*, on account of a Bill in Chancery brought againſt a Ward of his, which he readily let me have. I immediately carried it to her, and the getting over the preſent Exigency ſo eaſily, made me ſpend my Time with her in Pleaſure and Satisfaction; but when I ſeriouſly reflected on my Uncle's Return, which I expected in two or three Weeks, and dreaded greatly, well knowing it would be next to an Impoſſibility to conceal my Roguery long, I grew extremely melancholy. As my Wife knew the Cauſe, ſhe affected to ſympathize with me, declaring our

Safety

Safety depended on our not being diſcovered; alledging we had gone too far to retreat, and that nothing but vigorous Reſolutions could ſave us from Poverty, Shame, and Want; that a bold Stroke, if we had Courage enough to perform it, would not only remove thoſe Ills from us, but make the Remainder of our Lives pleaſant, happy, and plentiful. And no longer to mince the Matter, continued ſhe, your Uncle, Mr. *Wilſon*, muſt be ſent into another World.

Struck with inexpreſſible Horror, in an Agony of Paſſion and Trembling, I cried out, Better ten Thouſand ſuch impious Wretches as we ſhould ſuffer the worſt of Puniſhments, and deſerved Deaths, than a Hair of that good Man's Head ſhould be hurt. I then got up with an Intention of leaving this tempting She-devil for ever; when ſhe catched faſt Hold of me, and, in a laughing Manner, pretended, though Self-Preſervation was the firſt Law of Nature, what ſhe had propoſed was only to try me; knowing how agreeable his Death would

would be to us both. That, for her Part, she could not see the Difference (if any) between the Crime of wishing another's Death, and actually accomplishing it.

She prevented me from answering her diabolical Reasoning, by throwing her Arms about my Neck, and, with many feigned Sighs, inchanting Tears, and deceitful Caresses, begged I would drop the Argument, and kindly believe, that nothing but her sincere Love to me (for whose Happiness and Welfare she would willingly lay down her Life) could put such a Thought in her Head; adding, as this was her only Motive, hoped, that although it had not met my Approbation, I would, hereafter, neither blame, nor upbraid her for it.

On promising I never would, provided no farther Mention was made of so black a Deed, she then shewed the dismal Prospect before us, by drawing a lively Picture of the unavoidable Distress, and certain Shame, which could end only in an ignominious Death, in the

the Flower of our Ages; and perceiving I ſat in a ſilent, penſive Poſture, leaning my Head on my Hand, and heard her without Interruption, ſhe proceeded to tell me, all this, or more, her Courage and Fortitude could ſuffer for my Sake, without repining, was I not involved in the ſame Deſtruction.

I begged ſhe would forbear tempting me longer, for fear my ſtaggering Virtue ſhould be overcome. Well, my Dear, replied ſhe, I will ſay no more; yet cannot help ſhewing you the Deſign I had formed, and the Manner in which Mr. *Wilſon* might have been taken off, without the leaſt Hazard, or Suſpicion of either of us being concerned in it; and in hearing me through, you will obſerve my tender Love for you, inaſmuch as that I would not have your Hands imbrued in his Blood; chooſing rather, whatever Guilt there may be in it, ſhould fall on my Head only.

You know, my Dear, continued ſhe, the Cloaths you firſt met me in at *Berwick*, were ſo much a Diſguiſe, that your-

yourſelf did not know me, till I diſcovered who I was; thoſe I have now by me, in which I propoſed again to dreſs, after taking leave of this Place, on Pretence of going to *Scotland*; then privately, in the Wood near your Houſe, conceal my Woman's Apparel, take a Lodging at ſome little adjacent Ale-Houſe, go out daily with a Gun, as if I lay there only for the Convenience of ſhooting a few Days, till you could certainly inform me when your Uncle would go a Setting, which you have often told me was his favourite Diverſion, and that moſt commonly without a Servant. My meeting you both in the Fields with a Gun, and ſtanding ſome Time to ſee your Sport, would give him no Sufpicion, as I ſhould take Care to be behind him, while you were drawing the Net; at that Inſtant, ſeizing the favourable Opportunity, I would ſhoot him through the Head. I then intended dreſſing myſelf in my own Cloaths, and ſinking the others with the Gun in the River, and immediately make the

beſt

beſt of my Way to the next Sea Port; while you ſhould give out, that a Gentleman, unfortunately firing at a Partridge, had, undeſignedly, killed him; who, on perceiving what he had done, made what Speed he could towards the Moors, on a Horſe you obſerved him to mount, that was tied to a gate at ſome Diſtance; by which Means all Purſuers that might be ſent, muſt return with fruitleſs Accounts of the Searches they ſhould make, or any poſſible Conjecture who the unhappy Perſon was that had inadvertently fired his Piece. Thus, added ſhe, you may judge with what Circumſpection I intended to act, to prevent any Poſſibility of a Diſcovery, either in the Execution, or afterwards.

By ſuch Arguments as theſe I was at laſt brought to join in all her bloody Purpoſes, and became as eager for the Perpetration of the inhuman Murder as herſelf. Accordingly, Preparation was made agreeably to her artful and wicked Plan, againſt my Uncle's Return; and it would have been certainly executed, had

had we gone a Setting the Morning he appointed.

We had agreed to begin in a Field, near a Wood, where I knew of a large Covey of Birds, of which I gave *Cleopatra* Notice; but a Friend of my Uncle's coming to our Houſe the Night before, fortunately prevented our Deſign, and of which I had no Opportunity of acquainting her. She, impatient of Delay, waited many Hours on the Spot, without ſeeing us, and began to doubt, whether my Timidity had not made me confeſs our Intentions: To be ſatisfied on that Account, ſhe ſent an ignorant Country Lad with a Letter, and charged him to deliver it to none but the young Gentleman to whom it was directed.

He happened to meet a Servant in the Yard, and gave it him in the Preſence of my Uncle, who judging it for himſelf opened it. I had juſt mounted my Horſe, and coming out of the Gate, ſaw the Boy waiting there, and enquiring what he wanted, was told by him, he had brought

a Letter

a Letter from a Man in a Field hard by which he was to deliver to a young Man belonging to the Houſe; but that a Servant had given it to an old Man, whom he ſuppoſed to be the young Gentleman's Father. Finding he was a Stranger, and going to *York* for a Service, I put Half a Crown in his Hand, and adviſed him to run away as faſt as he could, or he would be put into Priſon for bringing ſuch a Letter.

He did not ſtay to thank me, but ſet out with ſuch Speed, that he was out of Sight in a Minute; nor did I make leſs Haſte to find my Wife, and the Confuſion I was in when I ſaw her, appeared in my Countenance: I immediately cried out, Quit this fatal Place and Country for ever, your Letter is fallen into my Uncle's Hands! What were the Contents? Speak, inſtantly! In that Moment all her Courage forſook her; ſhe fell into a violent Trembling; begged I would retire into the Wood, where her Cloaths were, and while ſhe dreſſed herſelf, ſhe would endeavour to ſummon

Spirits

Spirits enough to tell me; owning, by her Raſhneſs and Impatience we were both undone. Fearing, ſaid ſhe, your Heart had failed you, and not doubting but the Letter would come ſafe to your Hands, I therein exhorted you to be conſtant, courageous and happy; reminded you of the Jewels and Money; declared my own Reſolution and Firmneſs; took Notice of having killed a Brace of young Partridges, and waited now only to bring the old One down to compleat your Felicity; ſubſcribing myſelf your well beloved Friend, *John Moore.*

As our Deſigns were evidently diſcovered, ſpeedy Reſolutions were neceſſary, to prevent being taken; and Night coming on, it was agreed I ſhould take her behind me to a Sea-Port Town, about Twenty Miles off, where ſhe might get a Paſſage to *London*, while I made the beſt of my Way thither by Land: At parting, an appointed Place was agreed on for our Meeting, though I had ſolemnly determined with myſelf to go

into

into ſome foreign Country, in Hopes of never ſeeing again the Face of that bloody and inhuman Woman.

With this Intention, I made ſuch Expedition in my Journey, that I almoſt ſpoilt an excellent Hunter, which I rode, and which I ſold two or three Days after my Arrival in *London*, for leſs than half his former Value. The little Caſh, brought from home, being expended, a good Part of the Money the Horſe had fetched me I laid out in equiping myſelf for the Sea, by the Advice of a Sailor, at whoſe Houſe in *Wapping* I had taken a cheap Lodging.

He did his utmoſt Endeavours to find out a Maſter of a Ship going to the *Weſt-Indies*, or any of the *American* Colonies, that would take me as a Servant, and I was refuſed by many, on Account of never having been at Sea. Vexed at theſe Diſappointments, I begged of him to carry me to ſome of thoſe People, I had been informed took young Men as Servants for the Plantations; but though he adviſed me againſt going thither, in

that

that Manner, and, with many good Reaſons, would have perſuaded me from ſo doing, yet, at my earneſt Requeſt, he went along with me to the Houſe of one of thoſe Agents, who readily offered me fifteen Pounds and my Paſſage, if I would enter into Indentures of Apprenticeſhip, to ſerve ſeven Years in *Virginia*, from the Time I was ſet on Shore there. My friendly Landlord anſwered, he was ſure I would not agree for more than Five Years, and if he would give me that Sum, the Buſineſs ſhould be agreed on; but the other ſtrongly inſiſting on the firſt Terms, we parted; however, the next Day he came to us, and ſaid he had ſeen a Captain, that would take me for the Five Years, but would give me only ten Guineas for that Time.

I gladly embracing this Offer, was bound accordingly, by the Name of *William Pain*, not chooſing to diſcover my real one, and to my great Joy, the Ship ſailed out of the River the ſame Week. I found many of both Sexes on board under my Circumſtances, beſides

ſome

ſome Convicts, moſt of whom were ſo profligate and abandoned to all Senſe of Goodneſs or Shame, that their general Converſation conſtantly ran on the Thefts and Robberies they had committed, and the wicked Pranks they had played. This made me repent my not taking the Advice of the honeſt Sailor; however, by good Fortune, the Captain taking Notice of my inoffenſive Behaviour, called me to him, and ſaid, he believed I ſhould be glad to be parted from the riotous Crew my Condition had placed me among, and compaſſionately gave Directions for my Removal, by ordering my Bed between Decks, where the Ship's Company lay, and likewiſe promiſed me the Liberty of the Ship, provided I would lend a Hand in working her.

I joyfully accepted this kind Propoſal, and the Inclination I had to be ſerviceable for this Favour, ſoon made me of uſe. Our Paſſage was long, attended with foul, ſtormy Weather, and contrary Winds; and to add to our Misfortune,

moſt

moſt of the Crew fell ill with the Fatigue they underwent; but my Health continuing, I did all in my Power to aſſiſt; and before we reached our Port, went frequently aloft to help furl the Sails, and learned to ſtand at the Helm, and do moſt Things tolerably well, by which I procured the good Will of the Captain, who gave me a Teſtimony of it, at our Arrival in *Virginia*, by diſpoſing of me to a particular Friend of his, poſſeſſed of a Plantation, and Maſter of a trading Veſſel of his own, giving me the beſt of Recommendations; and, among others, aſſured him, from what he had ſeen in the Paſſage, a few Months would make me as good a Sailor as any on board. My Indentures were accordingly aſſigned to him, and, as we were leaving the Ship, the Captain put two Guineas in my Hand, ſaying, My Lad, I wiſh you well, take this for the Service you did me at Sea; behave as you have done with me, and you will find your Account in it: Your Maſter is both a ſenſible and humane Man, and knows

how to value an honeſt and diſcreet Servant. I thanked him for his Generoſity and Advice, and found his Words verified on going home with my new Maſter.

CHAP. XIX.

MY Maſter's Houſe, which was extremely neat, had a Garden well laid out, and planted with the beſt Fruit; adjoining was the Plantation well cultivated, and improved; the whole was delightfully ſituated, near a ſmall Creek in *York-river*, from whence the Sloop might be ſeen, as ſhe rode at Anchor, at the Diſtance of about a Quarter of a Mile. His Family conſiſted of a Wife, and Daughter (by a former Venture) near twelve Years old; two Men, and three Women Convicts, four black female Slaves, and five Negro Men. He told me my Buſineſs would be ſometimes to overlook thoſe, and ſome others he hired, in proper Sea-

Seaſons; but, chiefly, to take Care of the Sloop, and to go to Sea along with him.

My Diligence and Sobriety ſo far gained his Favour and Confidence, that, before I had ſerved a Month with him, he gave me the following brief Hiſtory of his Life; which he introduced with telling me, he was deſcended from a genteel Family of *Dorſetſhire*, and the youngeſt of five Sons; that he had received a liberal Education, and was ſent to *Oxford*, where he continued two Years at that Univerſity, purſuing his Studies with great Aſſiduity, being intended for the Church; but the immoral Lives of many of the inferior Clergy, he ſaid, gave him a Diſtaſte to that Profeſſion, and his falling in Love ſoon after with the beautiful Daughter of a neighbouring Farmer, confirmed his Averſion.

My Paſſion, continued he, for this innocent Fair One being diſcovered to my Parents, I was hurried to College; and in my Abſence, by their Intereſt

with the Farmer, who was a Tenant, ſhe was obliged to marry a young Man much againſt her Inclinations.

Theſe Cruelties reaching my Ears, full of raſh and juvenile Reſentment, I privately retired to *London*, with a determined Reſolution to forſake both Friends and Country. In order thereto, I embarked on board a Veſſel deſigned for new Diſcoveries; but I ſhall only take Notice that, during eighteen Months ſuffering the greateſt Hardſhips, through Want of Proviſion, terrible Storms, Sickneſs, and other Misfortunes, we were at laſt wrecked on an uninhabited Iſland in the *Weſt-Indies*, and reduced to leſs than one Third of the Hands we had brought from *England*; and that ſome Turtle and Shell-fiſh we frequently gathered on the Shore, ſupported us near three Months.

We were taken from thence by a *Spaniſh* Galleon bound to *Carthagena*, which, by a Diſeaſe that had raged on board, had ſcarce half Men enough left

to

to work her; ſo that it would have been next to an Impoſſibility to have carried her to her deſired Port, without our Aſſiſtance.

On our Arrival there, we hoped we ſhould have received ſome Gratification; but were told, when we were ſet on Shore, pennyleſs, that they were ſurpriſed at the Ingratitude and Impudence of Men, whoſe Lives they had charitably ſaved, and brought from a deſolate Iſland, in a periſhing Condition, ſhould expect Rewards from their Deliverers.—In ſhort, we continued ten Weeks in the Town, before we could get a Paſſage to *Jamaica*; doing, in that Time, all the Drudgery and ſervile Offices to get a poor and miſerable Suſtenance.

Notwithſtanding theſe Misfortunes, I entertained no Thought of returning home, but entered on board a Merchant-Ship at *Jamaica*, bound to *New-England*, and made a Voyage there and back again, during which, I applied myſelf cloſe to Navigation; and, by the Help of an able Maſter, made great Progreſs

in it. I ſailed two or three Voyages more from one Iſland to another, and gained ſo much Experience, that, ſoon after, I was made Mate of a good Sloop, and continued ſo near four Years, ſaving Money.

The Death of my Captain in *Maryland*, and my bringing home the Veſſel with Credit, induced the Owners to appoint me Commander. I remained ſeveral Years in their Service, honeſtly making a Fortune for myſelf, and Employers. The Trade we commonly uſed, was the *Spaniſh* Main and Bay; though I often traded to our own Iſlands and Settlements, as *New-England*, *Maryland* and *Virginia*.

I was ſo enamoured with this laſt Place, and liked it ſo well, particularly the Plantation, which was then on Sale, that I bought it; and the Purchaſe was juſt Eight Hundred Pounds. As I was at that Time worth upwards of Five Thouſand Pounds, and above Forty Years of Age, with this ample Fortune, my Thoughts altogether turned

on

on leaving off the hazardous Life of a Sailor, and looking out for a virtuous and diſcreet Wife; in Hopes with her to ſpend the Remainder of my Life happy and agreeably in this pleaſant Country; though, by the Sequel, you will find, Providence (of which I have ſtill little Reaſon to complain) had otherwiſe decreed.

I loſt no Time in ſettling my Affairs in *Jamaica*, called in my Debts, converted moſt of my Effects into Caſh, knowing that to be the beſt Commodity in a Country where Specie is ſcarce, and bought a fine Schooner, on purpoſe to carry me, with ſome Slaves and Goods I had purchaſed, to my Plantation; all which were on board the Veſſel, which lay at Anchor in *Port-Royal* Harbour. But the Day I was going to embark, the Wind blew ſo hard, I could not get off; and in leſs than an Hour afterwards, a violent Hurricane came on, in which ſhe, and five other Veſſels, went to the Bottom, without one Soul being ſaved out of any of them.

With the utmoſt Grief and Anguiſh, I was an Eye-Witneſs, that all I had been induſtriouſly working for above Twenty Years, periſhed in a Moment, excepting the before-mentioned Purchaſe.

This ſudden Revolution in my Fortune, obliged me to take Credit of ſeveral Perſons, to enable me to carry on Buſineſs in my Plantation; thoſe Debts kept me behind hand, and lay heavy on me ſeveral Years, and would to this Day, had I not employed myſelf in trading from Port to Port, along the Coaſt of our Settlements, notwithſtanding my having, before my Loſs, determined to go to Sea no more.

On my Arrival here, I found my little Affairs in great Diſorder, by the Roguery and Negligence of the Perſon I had intruſted them with. I laboured, moſt without Intermiſſion, to put them in a better Poſture, and when that was done, married a prudent Widow, with Five Hundred Pounds, with whom I lived comfortably nine Years,

Years, but in the Tenth, ſhe died, leaving me one Child, my Daughter *Mary*, then about four Years old. The Loſs of my Wife I ſincerely lamented, and thought it the greateſt Misfortune that had ever befallen me. Eight Years I remained a Widower, at the End of which I married my preſent Wife, who has always ſeemed fond of my Daughter, though uneaſy at her having no Children herſelf. Our Inequality of Ages might ſometimes occaſion little Miſunderſtandings, yet I always uſed her with the utmoſt Kindneſs and Tenderneſs, although I had not one Penny with her.

Thus have I ſhortly run over forty Years of my Life, ſince I left *England*; more than half of which I have reſided in this Country. 'Tis true, indeed, I owe nobody any Things; yet muſt own, with all my Toil, Care and Induſtry, that my Circumſtances are neither better nor worſe than they were at the Time I firſt ſettled here. I have omitted particulariſing many Dangers I have

gone thro', as it would tire you, and take me many Days in relating: He concluded, with obſerving from my Learning and Behaviour, that he was perſuaded I was well brought up, and ſhould be glad I would put Confidence enough in him, truly to inform him who I was, and by what Accident reduced to the Condition of ſelling myſelf for a Servant.

In return, I related my whole Life, unhappy Marriage, Flight from an indulgent Uncle, concealing only my true Name, and villanous Crime; and my Story ſo much affected him, that he generouſly offered to cancel my Indentures, procure me a Paſſage back, and ſupply me with what was neceſſary for my Return; deſiring nothing but my own Honour for his Security of Repayment. I thanked him from my Soul, for his generous intended Favours, and ſaid I ſhould look on my going back to *England* as the greateſt Misfortune; aſſuring him, I thought myſelf happy in meeting with ſo good a Maſter, with whom

whom I propoſed to ſerve my Time out, with the utmoſt Integrity; and that I might be the better enabled to ſerve him, begged he would have me taught Navigation, pulling out the twelve Guineas I had ſaved, and adding, I hoped that would pay for my Learning, without putting him to any Expence.

He replied, *William*, keep your Money, we ſhall ſoon go to Sea together, as I am preparing to ſail next Week, when I ſhall put you in a Way of improving your Stock, and will myſelf thoroughly inſtruct you, both in the Theory and practical Part of Navigation, having all neceſſary Books and Inſtruments by me; and with the ſame Care, as if you were my Son; and ſhall look upon you hereafter as ſuch, if your Behaviour will warrant me ſo to do.

After this Converſation, which was by ourſelves, on board the Sloop, he took me home, and obliged me to ſit at Table with him and his Family, he having firſt privately given his Wife Reaſons for this Indulgence: Yet I could

eaſily perceive, from the haughty Diſpoſition of my Miſtreſs, that ſhe was highly diſpleaſed her Huſband ſhould think her a proper Companion for a Slave; the People of the Country looking on all indented Servants as ſuch. Nevertheleſs, that ſoon wore off, by the courteous and reſpectful Manner I did every Thing ſhe commanded, and I became a Sort of Favourite with her.

In leſs than a Year we had made two Voyages, and were ready to proceed on a Third, when ſhe told my Maſter I ſhould have the Diſpoſal of her Venture, which was three Hogſheads of prime Tobacco, and the laying out the Produce in ſuch neceſſary Things as I found ſet down in a Paper ſhe gave me. He had no Objection, he ſaid, having never been able to pleaſe her himſelf in ſuch Commiſſions.

The fourth Day after our Departure, we fell in with an *Engliſh* Pirate, and I was terribly frighted on her coming along-ſide of us. My Maſter, Captain *Small*, knew their Commander, he having

ing once been his Mate, and likewiſe three of the Crew, who had formerly ſailed with him from *Jamaica*. Inſtead of plundering or uſing us ill, they expreſſed great Joy at meeting us, proteſting they would take nothing from us, were our Cargo ever ſo valuable, altho' they were in great Want of Caſh; in ſearch of which they were bound to the *Spaniſh Weſt-Indies*, where they intended to ſell a large Quantity of rich Goods, and valuable Cloaths, taken out of ſeveral *European* Ships.

They told my Maſter they wanted four or five Hogſheads of Tobacco for their own Uſe, for which they would truck Hard-ware, or any Thing elſe they had on board. On this, I told the Pirate Captain of my Miſtreſs's Venture, which was better than any of the reſt, the Produce of which I was to lay out in Womens Apparel, and poſſibly he might have ſome to truck. Well, honeſt Lad, ſays he, I am glad I can oblige my old Captain's Wife; come on board with it, and you ſhall have a large Box of fine Cloaths,

Cloaths, and other Trumpery, which, I doubt not, will pleaſe her.

I took him at his Word, without examining the Contents, as alſo of ſome Hard-ware, in Return for four Hogſheads more; my Maſter ſent them and brought them all on board. Immediately after, they fired five Guns, gave us a Cheer, and ſtood away to the Weſtward, leaving us to purſue our Courſe to *Boſton*, where we arrived, in Company with ſix or ſeven other Veſſels we met with bound to that Port, from *London*: As they all wanted Freight, our Cargo was ſoon diſpoſed of, and another of Flour, Rice, and Salt Beef taken in.

We ſailed from thence in leſs than three Weeks, came to a good Market at *Jamaica*, and returned home, with a Lading of Rum, Sugar, and other Commodities, all which turned out to ſo good an Account, that my Maſter declared this Voyage of five Months was the moſt advantageous one he had made for twenty Years before, owning he had not been poſſeſſed

of

of ſo much ready Money at once, in that whole Time.

My Miſtreſs, more impatient to ſee what Returns I had brought her than any Thing elſe, came on board as ſoon as we dropped Anchor, hardly giving herſelf Time to enquire after her Huſband's Health, before ſhe demanded to ſee what Purchaſes I had made for her. Indeed, Madam, ſaid I, I am as great a Stranger to that as yourſelf, yet hope you will not be diſpleaſed with what I have brought you. You Villain, ſhe replied, in a violent Paſſion, is it thus you repay my Civilities and Confidence in you? But I ſuppoſe my kind Spouſe has been tutoring you. I begged Pardon, and deſired ſhe would hear me, before being further blamed; and with my Maſter's Leave, told her the whole Story, and produced the Box, declaring I had not taken the Liberty to open it, but if ſhe was not ſatisfied with what it contained, I would take them myſelf, and immediately pay her double the Value of her Venture in ready Money, having been fortu-

fortunate enough, by Captain *Small*'s Indulgence, to double my little Stock.

You are a Wife-acre indeed, ſays ſhe, to take a Pirate's Word! but my Huſband, I ſhould have thought, was old enough to have prevented your making ſuch a fooliſh Bargain: I'll lay my Life all is not worth a Five-ſhilling Piece; however, pray let us ſee this fine Purchaſe you have brought me.

I did ſo, when ſhe ſtood motionleſs with eager Eyes, viewing the Abundance of rich Silk Gowns, the Quantity of fine Linnen, Lace, Stays, embroidered Aprons and Handkerchiefs; beſides Shoes, Fans, Ribands, *&c.* as they lay in a confuſed Heap; then turning to me, cried out, Dear *Pain* forgive me, I ſhall hereafter have a better Opinion of your Underſtanding. Sure theſe Things could belong to none but a Governor's Lady! Her Surpriſe and Joy was encreaſed, in ſorting and folding them up. And the next Day her Joy was ſtill more encreaſed by her finding a *Tompion*'s repeating Gold Watch, and Chain,

Chain, with ſeveral Diamond Rings, and ſome broad Gold, artfully conceal-ed within ſome new Stays; the Whole of which could not be worth leſs than five Hundred Pounds.

As ſhe was young, and very agreea-ble in Perſon, no wonder this Finery flattered her natural Vanity, and ſerved to raiſe me in her good Opinion, as it luckily procured the Means of making her the beſt dreſſed Planter's Wife in the Country; and from this Time, ſhe uſed me with more Familiarity, under the Pretence ſhe was ſatisfy'd of my be-ing a Gentleman's Son.

My Maſter, with his accuſtomed Goodneſs, loſt no Opportunity of in-ſtructing me in the Art of Navigation, and ſeemed pleaſed, that the Pains he had taken, were not thrown away. As I had often heard him ſay, how profitable a *Guinea* Voyage, prudently managed, might prove, I propoſed it to him to make one, as ſoon as our Crop was got in, more eſpecially, as he had lately bought a large Parcel of Goods, fit for

that

that Coaſt, out of a Privateer, which had taken a *French* Ship bound to that Place.

After ſome Conſideration, he reſolved to undertake it; ſaying, from thence he muſt go to *Jamaica*, or ſome of the Iſlands, to ſell the Slaves, and ſo home. His Wife readily agreed thereto, but juſt before we ſailed, unknown to me, ſhe had endeavoured to perſuade him how neceſſary it would be, to leave me behind, to take Care of the Plantation-buſineſs; inſiſting thereby, I ſhould be more ſerviceable to their Affairs, than taking me to Sea with him; but he not agreeing to her Opinion, Words enſued (as he told me afterwards) and I proceeded the Voyage with him.

We had nineteen Hands on board, eight of whom had been caſt away in a Veſſel, they ſaid, belonging to *Barbadoes*, our own two Convicts, ſix other Sailors, the Captain, Mate, and myſelf. I ſhall only inform you, we fell in well with the Coaſt, made the proper trading Signals, as we run along, and often anchored,

chored, to invite the Inhabitants on board; but the Natives who came off, for ſome Time, were ſo poor, they had neither Slaves, or other Commodities to exchange.

At length we came abreaſt of the Kingdom of *Benni*, the King whereof, having been very ſucceſsful in a Battle againſt a neighbouring potent Prince, had taken many Priſoners, and as no *European* Ships had called there ſince, we had the Picking of a Hundred Slaves, all young and of both Sexes, out of above five Hundred, which our little Cargo over-paid for; the Remainder we bartered for Elephants Teeth, and ſome Gold Duſt.

By the Captain's Permiſſion I bought a Boy and Girl, and he gave me their Paſſage, but I did not know, till afterwards, they were brother and Siſter, and that they were the Children of the defeated King. The latter was about thirteen Years of Age, and the Boy about twelve. She was kept in the Hold, among the Female Slaves, but the

the Lad I reſerved to make my Bed, and do other little Services in the Sloop. His Docility in learning our Language, which he ſpoke intelligibly in the four Months he was on board, and his engaging Behaviour, made me fond of him. I was greatly delighted at the Gratitude I obſerved in all his Geſtures and Actions, and by his Means, I found out a Conſpiracy, which, had it been executed, would have ended in our Deſtruction. As he frequently went down into the Hold, to the young Slave, whom he had informed me was his Siſter, he learned from her that one of the Men Slaves, who had been two Years at *Antigua*, and had made his Eſcape from thence, had been told by ſome of our Crew, that Eight of them had agreed to kill the Captain, and the reſt of the Sloop's Company; that they were to ſeize the Veſſel, and ſet them all at Liberty; and, in order thereto, ſix of the ſtouteſt Negro Men were to be unhandcuffed on the Morrow Night, that they might aſſiſt occaſionally.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

WHEN the Boy had made this Diſcovery, I charged him, on his Life, to ſay nothing to any Body; which the better to prevent, I locked him up in my Cabin, and went to the Captain to acquaint him with the unhappy Situation of his Affairs. The Conſternation he was in at this Conſpiracy, deprived him of Speech for ſome Time; but ſoon recovering himſelf, he calmly ſaid, *William*, we muſt act in our preſent Circumſtances with Prudence, Caution and Courage. Let us well conſider firſt, who the Mutinous are, and how many are concerned in this deſperate Deſign; and then of the Means of preſerving the Sloop, and our own Lives. Without the Gift of Prophecy, I can plainly ſee, the Eight Men pretending to be ſhipwreck'd, are the Villains: For tho' they are all experienced Seamen, I never liked their riotous and wicked Behaviour. My own two Convicts I much ſuſpect

ſuſpect likewiſe, having of late obſerved great Familiarity and Caballing between them; the other Sailors have been ſeveral Voyages with me, ſo I have not the leaſt Doubt of them; whom, with myſelf, Mate, and you, make our Number nine honeſt Men, to ten Rogues: Our Caſe, therefore, would be no way deſperate, had we not Negroes on board, who, I fear, will riſe upon us, if any Diſturbance happens, otherwiſe I ſhould make no Difficulty of immediately ſeizing the Conſpirators, hand-cuffing and barring them down the fore Hatchway. However, that, or ſomething elſe muſt be done, before their Plot is ready for Execution.

After giving him the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances of my Fidelity and Reſolution, of dying with him, if his Death could not be prevented, I added, a lucky Thought had juſt come into my Head, that might yet preſerve us all. I wiſh it might prove ſo, replied he, but happen what will, let us behave as Men of Courage and Humanity, by ſparing the

Lives

Lives of as many as we can ſecure, without endangering our own.

I replied, My Project will affect no Lives, but muſt inſtantly begin, by your breaking my Head, and making me in a bloody Condition. Purſue me with the greateſt Anger, out of the Cabin upon Deck, with your Cane; lay on, without any ſeeming Mercy before the Men; charge me with embezzling your Stores, drinking your Liquors, and ſtealing your Gold Duſt; threaten to break every Bone in my Skin, if I will not confeſs what I have done with the latter. I will be very impudent and ſaucy, and deny all. Let me have Part of the Gold Duſt to put in my Cheſt, and when you think I have locked it up, ſend for me on the Quarter-Deck, and promiſe to forgive me on a frank Confeſſion.

With Oaths and Imprecations I will ſtill pretend Innocency; then order my Cheſt to be brought to you, and require the Key, which I will obſtinately refuſe to deliver, when, do you order it to be broke open; your Goods being found

found therein, will be a full Conviction of my Theft; appeal to the Ship's Company, what a hardened and ungrateful Villain I am, whom you have ſo long harboured in your Boſom; telling me, my Uſage at *Virginia* ſhall be ten times worſe than that of the meaneſt Negro, and charge me never to enter your Cabin Door again.

Say all this, and whatever elſe you can think of, in the greateſt Paſſion you can poſſibly counterfeit; for the more you appear exaſperated againſt me, the greater Confidence I ſhall gain among the Diſaffected. I will throw out Hints among them of taking Revenge, the firſt Opportunity; this will certainly induce them to receive me with open Arms, as a fit Accomplice in their Conſpiracy. After which, I doubt not of traverſing their Deſigns, by declaring myſelf as willing and ready as the forwardeſt of them all. At the ſame time I will inſinuate, if my Advice may be taken, every Man might ſhare above a Thouſand Pounds a-piece at once; but

as

as the Matter now ſtands, little would be got, beſides the Sloop, which is but in a bad Condition, and already ſtraitened in Point of Stores and Proviſions; and I ſhall take Notice alſo, that great Danger may enſue from the Number of Slaves on board, which we muſt deſtroy or run the Hazard of being ſo ſerved ourſelves by them. Their Ears, it is probable, will be opened to ſuch advantageous Propoſals. I then intend to proceed, by telling them your Deſign of ſelling all your Slaves for ready Money, which, at Forty Pounds a Head, comes to four Thouſand Pounds; that, to my Knowledge, you likewiſe intended to carry home Three Thouſand Pounds more, you had in Specie at *Jamaica*; which, together with a rich Paſſenger, and all his Effects, you are to take in there, will make the Booty conſiderably more than I at firſt alledged; therefore, I ſhould think, it would be our Intereſt to defer ſeizing the Sloop, till all theſe Riches were on board, and we on our Return to *Virginia*.

The Captain approved my Contrivance; but was diffident of performing a Part ſo contrary to his Inclination. However, he loſt no Time in delivering the Gold Duſt, and ſome other of his Things to me; he then opened a Vein in my Head with a Lancet, which bled plentifully; and ſo prudently behaved, in beſtowing his Blows, ill Language, and threatenings upon me, that not a Perſon on board ſuſpected the leaſt Colluſion, and his Goods being found in my Cheſt, confirmed their Opinion.

The well-inclined declared, I deſerved to be hanged; the others ſaying, ſuppoſing it was true, I had ſuffered too much; eſpecially my two Fellow-Servants, who came into my Cabin to comfort me; bidding me be of good Heart, for the Time was at hand, when we ſhould all have our Revenge; declaring (untruly) that he had been a cruel Maſter to them, which ſerved to convince me that they were both guilty.

I ſeemed not to underſtand them, and ſwore I would bury my Knife in the Captain's

Captain's Heart, before it was long, if I was ſure to be hanged the next Minute. Preſently after their going out, the Ringleader of their Miſchief came in; ſaying, My Lad, be of good Cheer, I could tell you ſomething would revive your Heart; give me thy Hand, and do not cry: I find thou haſt a noble Spirit of Revenge, ſo dare truſt thee. He then told me their whole Deſign, much in the ſame Manner, in which my Boy, in his broken *Engliſh*, had already informed me; adding, that his eight Ship-mates, and the two Convicts, were alſo concerned, ſo that I made the eleventh; that as he was to be Captain, in conſideration of my being a good Navigator, he would make me Lieutenant, and that they ſhould go upon the Account, and ſoon get Money enough.

I appeared all in Raptures at this Diſcovery, curſed Captain *Small* to the Pit of Hell, propoſed inſtantly to go upon Deck, and undertake to kill both him and the Mate myſelf with a ſharp pointed Knife I pulled out. Hold, hold, my

little Blood, ſays he, I did not think thou had half this Courage; but know, I command here, and will have every Thing done as I pleaſe. I begged Pardon; inſinuating, if he was ſuffered to live another Day, it would be much to our Advantage to let him live a little longer, by what I could tell him; but as I was ſure if he knew it, our Revenge would be deferred, I therefore would not propoſe it, though it would put more than a Thouſand Pounds a-piece in our Pockets.

He inſiſted to know how we could get ſo much Money, but I refuſed telling him a great while; ſaying, preſent Revenge was ſweeter to me than all the Riches in the World. He then proceeded to threatening, in caſe I would not diſcover; when, with a ſeeming Force, I at laſt gave him the Account beforementioned, of the great Sums of Money to be taken on board at *Jamaica*, and of the rich Paſſenger, whoſe Effects amounted to many Thouſand Pounds, who was to embark with us for *Virginia*; yet,

yet, although I knew all this to be true, and that we might certainly divide Two or Three Thouſand Pounds a Man, I was for preſent Execution, if I did not get a Farthing by it.

Avaſt! avaſt! my Heart, ſays he, I am neither *Spaniard* or *Portugueſe*, to cut a Throat for a Groat, nor am I ſo blood-thirſty, as to take any Man's Life away, when it is not my Intereſt to do it: And conſidering, as you have convinced me, how little is to be got at preſent, and how much by ſtaying, I am reſolved to do nothing till all this Treaſure you tell me of is on board; as it is Money, my bold Heart, and not Blood, that I want; my Comrades ſhall know my Will, and that's enough: We will meet before the Change of the Watch at Twelve, in the Forecaſtle; you will then ſee none of them dare do any thing but what I command. He then left me in high Spirits, that my Plot had ſucceeded ſo well.

I ſhould have before taken Notice of ſome private Signals being ſettled be-

tween the Captain and myſelf, which were as follows. In the firſt Place, if the two Convicts were concerned, I was to wear my Hat with the Button on the right Side, otherwiſe on the left; the Number of Conſpirators were to be determined by my putting my Hands as often into my Boſom, on my firſt Appearance in the Morning; if I had Hopes of prevailing, one Corner of my Neck Handkerchief was to hang out; if ſure, both. On my coming upon Deck, he plainly perceived his Conjectures were true of the Convicts, and that I had Hopes of ſucceeding in my Project.

However, he began rating me afreſh; charging me not to come within his Reach, all the while ſhaking his Cane at me, and looking with a ſtern Countenance. My poor Boy was ready to die with Grief, at ſeeing me thus uſed; the Captain having taken him into his Cabin, to prevent his holding any Converſe with the Men or the Slaves.

All

All the mutinous met at Night, and I had the Pleaſure of hearing our Captain, that was to be, relate all I had told him; though he exaggerated ſo far, as to aſſure them, they would certainly ſhare Four or Five Thouſand *Spankers* a Man; therefore declared, he would not take poſſeſſion of the Sloop, till the *Coal* was on board; to which his Ship-mates readily concurred: But my ſelf and Fellow-ſervants were againſt any Delay, for fear of Accidents, as we ſaid, but were over-ruled, as I expected, and a Reſolution taken to wait for the Treaſure, and no more Meetings to be held, each being charged (and myſelf in particular) to behave well and civilly.

This grand Point being gained, the next Morning, both Corners of my Handkerchief waving in the Wind, I could eaſily perceive the inward Satisfaction the Sight of this Signal gave my Maſter; yet he never ſaw me without a Frown, and other Marks of his Reſentment. We had been ſixteen Days after-

wards at Sea, when we made the High-land of the Iſle; and on the Eight-teenth, in the Evening, came to an An-chor in *Kingſton* Harbour, along-ſide of a Man of War, who haled us, and aſked from whence we came? Being an-ſwered from *Guinea*, a Lieutenant put off in a two-oar'd Skiff, and came on board to buy a Female Slave for the Captain's Lady: My Maſter having in-vited him into the Cabin, acquainted him with the Circumſtances we were un-der, and the Perils we had undergone for almoſt three Weeks paſt, on diſco-vering the villanous Deſigns of Ten of his Crew.

The Lieutenant congratulated his ſafe Arrival, and providential Eſcape; ſay-ing, he would ſoon deliver us from far-ther Danger; but muſt firſt acquaint his Captain, and would return with a Force ſufficient to ſecure the Villains without Miſchief. In leſs than half an Hour, he came in the eight-oar'd Boat, with four or five other Officers, and as ſoon as he entered our Sloop, he ſaid,

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the King's Ship wanted Men, and Men he muſt have; inſiſting, we might very well ſail our Sloop with half the Number of Hands we carried; then inſtantly laid hold of the deſperate Promoter of the Mutiny (he having been pointed out to him before) while the others ſeized three more, and conveyed them, as preſſed Men, into the Boat. As this was obſerved from their Ship, the Barge put off with the Captain, who likewiſe came on board, and ſent the ſix others away, ordering them all in Irons.

The Mate, and the ſix honeſt Sailors, with my poor Boy, were in the greateſt Surpriſe, Conſternation, and Joy, to ſee Captain *Small* run and catch me in his Arms, weeping, and embracing me, with the Affection of the tendereſt Parent; declaring to all on board, that the Sloop's remaining People, owed their Lives and Preſervation to my Prudence and Diſcretion; relating to the Captain of the Man of War, and his Officers,

the Means made uſe of to defeat the bloody Deſigns of thoſe Deſperadoes.

So many People came on board to ſee them, that they were ſoon known to belong to a Pirate Veſſel, which had been caſt away, about ten Months before, and every Man of them ſworn to by ſeveral Perſons they had plundered. They were tried, convicted, and executed, in leſs than three Weeks afterwards, and our Convicts were ſentenced to be branded on the Cheek with the Letter R, whipped three Market Days round the Town, and kept in Priſon on Bread and Water, till they could be ſold to the *Spaniards* to work in their Mines during their Lives.

We had the Misfortune to bury our old Mate, and another of our Men, a few Days after our Arrival; the Loſs of whom, together with the before-mentioned Hands, made it neceſſary to ſupply ourſelves with others. Accordingly I was ordered by my Maſter, to viſit the Rendezvous of the Sailors, in order to engage three or four Men to ſail with

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us to *Virginia*. But, good God! how ſhall I relate the Horror, Confuſion and Surpriſe I was in, on entering one of thoſe Houſes, where, I had been informed, two *Dutch* Seamen quartered, that wanted a Voyage! On my Enquiry for them, I was deſired to go up Stairs, and the firſt Object which preſented itſelf to my Sight, was my unhappy Wife, drunk, as her two Companions were: She was lolling her Arms about the Neck of one of them, who ſeemed aſleep, while the other's Hand was in her Boſom. I ſuddenly turned my Back upon them, hardly making three Steps to the Bottom, and ran haſtily to the Place where I had left Captain *Small*, with Hair erect, and Countenance pale as Death, and expreſſive of the utmoſt Fear and Amazement, crying out, Oh, ſave me, ſave me! and inſtantly fell down in a Swoon at his Feet.

The old Gentleman's Concern was inexpreſſible; he drew his Hanger, and ſtood over me, imagining ſomebody was purſuing to take my Life away.

But coming to myſelf, in a Flood of Tears, I informed him of what I had ſeen: He comforted and pitied me, demanding whether the infamous Woman had ſeen me? I replied, ſhe looked in my Face, but believed the drunken Condition ſhe was in, together with my Alteration of Dreſs, might prevent her knowing me. Come, ſaid he, you ſhall go on board with me, and if you continue there, I do not apprehend her ever having the leaſt Knowledge of your being at *Jamaica*.

When we got on board, I acquainted him with every Circumſtance I had before omitted, as my true Name, the Jewels I had ſtolen from my Uncle, and the Conſpiracy I entered in afterwards, at the Inſtigation, and deluding Arts of that Monſter of a Woman, to murder this beſt of Uncles. When I had ended, he ſaid all the kind Things the ſincereſt Friendſhip could dictate, and adviſed me to depend on that Providence which had hitherto preſerved me from ſo many Temptations and Perils.

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He had ſcarcely left me an Hour, (which I had ſpent in the utmoſt Anxiety of Mind) before he returned on board. He then bid me prepare myſelf to hear the News he brought, with Moderation and Temper; ſaying, you will obſerve that Providence, which I had adviſed you to depend on, has already almoſt worked a Miracle for your Deliverance. To keep you no longer in Suſpence, added he, the very Woman you ſaw with the *Dutchmen*, this Morning, on a Quarrel between her and one of them, on account of Money he had promiſed to give her, and would not, ſnatched a Knife out of the Hand of the other, and plunged it into the Heart of the unfortunate Man, in the Preſence of ſeven or eight People. The Man now lies dead in the Houſe, where the Murder was committed; and I ſaw her carrying to Priſon, ſo much intoxicated with Liquor, that it prevents her being tried to-day, altho' the Court is now ſitting; but to-morrow, no doubt, ſhe will receive a Sentence long due to her Crimes.

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I was ſo aſtoniſhed at his Relation, that every Joint of me trembled; and my Compaſſion for the miſerable Fate of this once-beloved Woman, ſhewed itſelf by the Tears which trickled from my Eyes. So ſoon as I could ſpeak, I declared that, notwithſtanding her wicked Courſes had ruined and undone me, I was ſtill under the moſt grievous Affliction for her Misfortunes, and thought it my indiſpenſible Duty to give her all the Aſſiſtance in my Power. I beg'd my Maſter would ſee her, in her ſober Hours, and leave ſome Money, which I gave him, with the Jailor, that ſhe might not want; and likewiſe, that he would prevail on ſome worthy Clergyman to viſit her, that by his good Advice, I hoped, ſhe might be brought to a due Senſe of her Crimes: Affirming, I would freely part with all I had in the World, to effect this good Purpoſe.

He highly applauded my Sentiments, and promiſed to go to her the Morning after her Trial, attended with a Clergyman of his Acquaintance, whoſe Labour, he

he was ſure, would be indefatigable, from the Benevolence of his Diſpoſition. He punctually kept his Word, and the Exhortations of that Reverend Divine ſo wrought upon her, that ſhe began ſeriouſly to conſider the Offences ſhe had been guilty of, and the juſt Puniſhments ſhe deſerved for them.

I ſhall only ſay, ſhe became truly contrite, and behaved ſo well, as to give thoſe good Men great Joy and Satisfaction. She was to have ſuffered on the eighth Day after Sentence, but my Maſter obtained a Reprieve for eight Days longer; in which Time ſhe wrote a Confeſſion of the moſt material bad Actions of her Life. The Veracity in which it was done, left me no Room to doubt of her Sincerity, altho' many of her Crimes had never before come to my Knowledge; particularly, the poiſoning her Miſtreſs, Mrs. *Cox*, and her Behaviour in *London*, when ſhe went to ſell the Jewels; for ſhe now owned ſhe received four Hundred and Fifty Pounds for them, and ſquandered away the

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Money with an *Iriſh* Footman, whom ſhe had known in *Cambridge*; that ſhe had lived with him till all the Money was ſpent; and it was there the Plot was laid for deſtroying my Uncle; which if effected, ſhe declared her Huſband was to have been taken off, as ſoon as a good Jointure could have been procured, that would have maintained her Gallant and her handſomely; and that on her Return to *London*, after this Diſappointment, ſhe confeſſed ſhe ſaw her Huſband no more. That the ſame Fellow and ſhe lived together, as Man and Wife, till reduced to Want, he then taking to the Highway, was ſoon executed; and ſhe becoming a common Proſtitute, aſſociating with numerous Gangs of Thieves and Pick-pockets, and that ſhe had been ſeveral Times in Jail for Robberies; that for one of them ſhe was tried and caſt for Tranſportation, about eight Months ſince, and lately made her Eſcape from *New-England*, in a Veſſel belonging to this Iſland, by a Sailor's concealing her in his

his Cabin, unknown to the Captain, till they were many Leagues at Sea; and that the diſtreſſed Condition in which ſhe was landed, two or three Days before the committing the Crime for which ſhe was to ſuffer, had obliged her to have recourſe to her old Practice of Proſtitution. She then concluded with obſerving, that ſhe verily believed her lawful Huſband, a young Gentleman of Family, and promiſing Genius, was dead, being almoſt certain ſhe ſaw his Apparition, ſome Hours before her being carried to Priſon; proteſting the final Ruin and Deſtruction ſhe had brought upon him, lay heavier on her Heart, than all the reſt of her complicated Crimes.

I expreſſed a hearty Deſire of ſeeing her before ſhe died, but was diſſuaded from it by my Maſter. The Miniſter and Captain attended her to Execution, where, as they told me, her Deportment was modeſt and ſolemn, without the leaſt Appearance of Fear; declaring ſhe came to ſuffer the ignominious Puniſh-

Punishment due to her justly forfeited Life, with Pleasure; and so far was she from desiring a Continuance of Life, that she looked on her Sentence as the greatest Happiness she could enjoy, as she should, thereby, in some measure, with her own Blood, expiate that she had so wickedly shed.

Before she was turned off, she addressed herself to the Spectators; earnestly requesting her fatal Catastrophe might prove a Warning to all present; begging they would join in singing a Psalm, which she gave out herself, with a distinct and audible Voice; that ended, she returned Thanks to the Clergyman, and my Master, and acknowledged, that by their Goodness and Charity, she was brought to a just Sense of the Heinousness of her Crimes. Then falling on her Knees, prayed some Time, and raising herself, with a Smile in her Countenance, told the Executioner she was ready.

The decent manner in which she made her Exit, affected every one present.

preſent. When ſhe was dead, her Body was put into a Coffin I had before provided for that Purpoſe, and many who had been Spectators of her End, attended the Corpſe to the Burial-place, with Sorrow and Compaſſion in their Countenances. And though a heavy Melancholy hung on my Spirits for a long Time, I had yet a pleaſing Satisfaction, on reflecting how Providence had thrown her in my Way, to make me uſeful to her in her laſt Moments.

CHAP. XXI.

AFTER this long Digreſſion, continued Mr. *Wilſon*, I ſhall return to the Succeſs of our Voyage. Our Negroes, by the prudent Management, and good Uſage of the Captain, were quite healthy and ſtrong, having buried but one in our Paſſage. Beſides this good Fortune, we came to a good Market, where, one Slave with another, ſelling at above forty Pounds a-head, I cleared

to my own Share, above fifty Pounds, without diſpoſing of my favourite Boy; having prevailed on my Maſter to carry him and his Siſter home with us, aſſuring him they ſhould be as much employed in his Service, as if they were his own. The poor Lad, who had been under dreadful Apprehenſions of being ſold with the reſt, and parted from his Siſter, being acquainted with our Deſigns, was ſo tranſported with Joy, that I almoſt feared he would have gone out of his Senſes.

We ſtaid not long on the Iſland, but firſt took in a Lading of Sugar, and Rum; returning ſafe to *York-river* again, in ſomething leſs than ten Months from our Departure from thence. This advantageous Trade had ſo enriched my Maſter, and ſo well pleaſed was he with my Services and Conduct, that he declared to my Miſtreſs, on her coming off to welcome us on our ſafe Arrival, that all his Succeſs and Proſperity was owing to my perſuading him firſt to attempt ſuch a Voyage (which he ſhould never

never have thought of at his Age) and afterwards to a Carefulneſs, Prudence, and Fidelity, which greatly contributed thereto. And now, my Dear, continued he, as a Proof of my Gratitude, I deſire the Favour of you to look on Mr. *Wilſon*, who is no longer *Pain*, as our joint Friend, and fetch immediately his Indentures on board, that I may tear them to Pieces, and thereby give him the two Years of his Time unexpired; being determined he ſhall not ſet his Foot on Shore till he is a free Man: Nor ſhall my grateful Returns ſtop here, for this Sloop, when re-fitted, ſhall be his, that, while you and I enjoy the Eaſe and Plenty he has been inſtrumental in procuring, he may have the Means of attaining the ſame for himſelf.

Silent Tears were all the Thanks I could pay my generous Maſter; which my Miſtreſs obſerving, ſhe made many Acknowledgments of my Services, and praiſed my Honeſty and Induſtry: But obſerved, as an Allay to her Compliment, that had I proved otherwiſe, after

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the uncommon Civilities they had both ſhewed to one in my Condition, I muſt have been the worſt of Men; and could not underſtand, why a Servant, for doing what was no more than his Duty, ſhould be gratified with Liberty, and a Veſſel worth more than three Hundred Pounds. That, for her Part, tho' ſhe was for giving all due Encouragement to Merit, ſhe could not give her Conſent to either of her Huſband's Promiſes at preſent, as the Plantation, by our long Abſence, was in a bad Condition, and abſolutely required many Hands, and long Labour to bring it into any tolerable Order, and when that was done it would be Time enough to think of diſcharging me.

I obſerving, by the Captain's Colour, he was going to anſwer with ſome Heat, endeavoured to prevent it, by begging him to have Regard to the juſt Reaſons of my Miſtreſs; that his kind Intentions in my Favour, were of much greater Value, in my Opinion, than the Services themſelves; having, before ſhe

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ſpoke, reſolved in my Mind, humbly to have refuſed both; in hopes my remaining Time might ſtill furniſh me with Opportunities, by a faithful Servitude, of returning ſome of the many Obligations to ſo good a Maſter and Miſtreſs; therefore, dear Sir, added I, ſay no more of it.

At that Inſtant, hearing a Boat a long-ſide of us, I ran up, and was glad to find it contained Company to my Maſter, who, ſhortly after, carried them a-ſhore to his Houſe; though not till he had ſent for me into the Cabin, and declared in their Preſence, how greatly he was indebted to my Fidelity for his Succeſs.

I remained with the People in the Sloop. In the Morning, my Maſter brought his Daughter on board with him, to ſhew how much ſhe was grown and improved. The Moment ſhe ſaw me, ſhe cried with Joy, I having been always exceedingly fond of her, which her Innocency and Good-nature returned obligingly. Soon after, we weigh-

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ed Anchor, and ſtood within a Cable's Length of our own Warehouſes, when coming to an Anchor again, we proceeded to unlade her. When the Veſſel was cleared, we laid her aſhore, for the Carpenters to repair her; which, when done, and a clean Bottom put on, we carried her to her old Moorings, where ſhe was new rigged and painted, received new Cables and Sails, and indeed looked like a new Veſſel.

While this was doing, the Plantation was not neglected; for in the four Months we had been at home, the Ditches and Drains, which were almoſt choaked up, were opened; the rank Weeds, with which it abounded, deſtroyed; the decayed Fences made good; abundance of young Trees planted; and, in ſhort, every thing, that could either improve or beautify, done, to make it the beſt cultivated Spot of Ground in *Virginia*.

During this laſt Time of being at home, my Miſtreſs had taken as many Opportunities as offered to talk with me, often

often aſſuring me, ſhe was more my Friend than her Huſband; although ſhe oppoſed the Freedom he offered to give me, with the Sloop, thinking them to fall far ſhort of rewarding my Merit and Services; and, one Day, plainly told me, that her Huſband being old and infirm, I might ſoon hope for every thing a kind Miſtreſs could beſtow, and who loved me almoſt to Diſtraction; and, indeed, ſaid more than, in common Decency, ſhould be related. I endeavoured, by all reaſonable Arguments, to eradicate this deſtructive Paſſion in its Birth, but to very little Purpoſe: At laſt, I declared my utter Abhorrence of all ſuch criminal Actions; proteſting, an infamous Death would be my Choice, rather than ungratefully to injure ſo good aad kind a Maſter; yet, dreading the Conſequence of an abſolute Refuſal, to a paſſionate Woman, I ſoothed her with all the gentle Words I could think of; ſaying, how much I thought myſelf honoured by her Friendſhip, and promiſed to entertain no Views of leaving

them; and if, in a Courſe of Years, my Maſter ſhould change this Life for a better, I ſhould then remember, with the utmoſt Gratitude, the kind Aſſurances ſhe had given me; in the mean while, hoped ſhe, as well as I, as it was both our Duties, would not be guilty of Imprudence, or any Act which might hereafter raiſe a Bluſh on our Faces. Whether what I ſaid had any Effect, or a Decay perceivable in her Huſband encouraged her to believe he could not live long, I know not, but ſhe left me with an unexpected Tranquility of Mind, and with Aſſurances, that ſhe loved me too well, to neglect taking the Advice I had given her.

This unfortunate Affair was the only Thing that made me uneaſy in my Servitude, which I had long ſuſpected, from the Freedoms ſhe frequently took, under the Pretence of my being like a deceaſed Brother; and her deſiring I might be left at home the laſt Voyage, was almoſt a Confirmation; but, beſides her vicious Inclinations being my Averſion,

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I had other Reaſons, that made it almoſt inſupportable: The virtuous Paſſion, the growing Beauties, the artleſs Innocency, and engaging Behaviour of my Maſter's Daughter, having inſpired me with a chaſte and ardent Love, from the Time I became a Widower; and, to encourage me in my Hopes, her Father frequently hinted to me, how agreeable it would be to him to ſee his dear Child happily diſpoſed of to a Youth of my Diſpoſition; and he had Diſcernment enough to perceive a Kind of inward Joy glow in my Countenance, whenever that lovely Virgin was our Subject, and betrayed a ſecret Pleaſure himſelf, in hearing me enumerate the many ſhining Qualities ſhe poſſeſſed; nor did he receive leſs when he talked of me to her, approving her kind Sentiments in my Favour. And as Inclination, as well as Duty, acted powerfully in my Behalf, ſhe confeſſed to him, his good Opinion of me, from the firſt of my coming, was a ſufficient Reaſon to create Reſpect in her, without

joining the real Services I had done the Family.

My Maſter ſoon after, pleaſed with the Succeſs of his Labours, came into my Room, and found me inſtructing my little black Prince, as was cuſtomary for me to do when Buſineſs was over, and bidding me to diſmiſs him for the preſent, ſaid, he came to talk with me: Then taking hold of my Hand, in a free, kind Manner, aſked me, what I thought of the Man that repaid real Services of the greateſt Importance, with friendly Promiſes only; and whether I would not deſpiſe both him and his deluding Speeches? By my not anſwering directly, Come, ſaid he, you would, I am ſure, as much as I; and I muſt own, my long Silence, and Non-performance of thoſe I made to you, four Months ago, is enough to make me appear contemptible in your Eyes; though, from the thorough Knowledge we have of each other, I do not think you will harbour ſo ill an Opinion of me; and, be aſſured, theſe Indentures, which I thus

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tear to Pieces, but this Day fell into my Hands, having, till now, been concealed by my Wife, (who, for what Reason I cannot imagine, is much averſe to your Freedom) and am now determined no longer to defer performing the ſolemn Obligations I am under.

The Sloop, as ſhe rides at Anchor, with all on board, fitted for the Sea, is no more mine: This Bill of Sale, which I executed yeſterday, my two Neighbours, *Watſon* and *Mills*, are Witneſſes to my receiving Three Hundred and Ninety Pounds on your Account, in full Conſideration for her; which Money I took Care to depoſit with a Friend, that it might be paid into my Hands before ſigning the Bill of Sale, which makes her yours.

But you muſt not think, continued he, that in accepting this, I ſhall look on myſelf as diſcharged from what I ſtill owe to your Services, there being ſomething more to be done, ere I ſhall think myſelf entitled to an Acquital; then throwing his Arms around my Neck,

while tender Tears of Friendſhip plentifully fell from his Eyes, added, he had long obſerved, with Pleaſure, a mutual Regard between me and his Daughter *Molly*; that he was too well ſatisfied with my Sincerity to doubt of my truly anſwering a Queſtion, in which his Peace of Mind was infinitely concerned; and conjured me to declare, whether my Affections were ſo ſettled on her, as to make her my Wife? Aſſuring me, if they were, I freely had his Conſent to marry her whenever I pleaſed.

He was going on, when I fell at his Feet, proteſting, he was born to bleſs me; that nothing on this Side Heaven could make me happier than a Return of Love from that amiable Virgin, whom I adored with a Paſſion almoſt divine. Here we were interrupted, by a Servant entering the Room, and letting my Maſter know, that my Miſtreſs was returned from a Viſit, and deſired his Company in the Parlour; but before he went away he appointed our Meeting in the Morning at the ſame Place, and ordered

dered me to take no Notice of what had paſſed.

CHAP. XXII.

WE met accordingly, when he ſoon informed me, with Grief in his Countenance, he had given his Wife ſome Hint of his Intentions, which ſhe violently oppoſed; but when your Marriage, continued he, with my Daughter was mentioned, ſhe loſt all Moderation, proteſting, rather than ſhe would conſent to ſuch a Match with a Slave, ſhe would fix a Dagger in both your Hearts. *Molly* happening to come in at the ſame Time, ſhe flew at the poor Girl, and would, I believe, have ſtrangled her, had I not been preſent. Obſerving the Outrageouſneſs of her Paſſion, and being unwilling to come to Extremities, after my Daughter was retired, I endeavoured, by an Expedient, to bring her to Reaſon, by inſinuating, that poſſibly I might have rated your Services at too

high a Value, though ſhe was ſenſible, and had herſelf acknowledged them to be great. However, to prevent Uneaſineſs between us, I gave her my Word, notwithſtanding what I had propoſed in your Favour, that all things ſhould remain in the ſame Poſture they now were; nay, farther promiſed, to ſhew what Weight her Obſervations had on me, never to conſent that *Molly* ſhould become your Wife, till I was well aſſured you really was the Perſon you repreſented; and, in the Interim, was deſirous, with her Approbation, of carrying my Daughter to her Aunt's at *Boſton* myſelf, and leave you here, provided ſhe would behave kindly, and without Reſentment in my Abſence.

By theſe Means, added he, I have ſatisfied her, and laid myſelf under no Obligation of falſifying my Word to you. 'Tis true, her not knowing of your Freedom, and Property in the Sloop, nor that I can't be more aſſured than I am, who you are, has contributed greatly to a ready Acquieſcence with my Deſigns, which

which is to take *Molly* to *New-England*, with the two young Negroes, *Dutcheſs* and *Prince*, and even to ſail to-morrow, if the Wind ſerves; for, as you know the Tobacco is on board, all Neceſſaries elſe may be provided in a few Hours. My Return ſhall be as expeditious as poſſible; you ſhall then carry the Sloop to *Jamaica*, and proceed, as ſoon as you are unladen, and take in a freſh Cargo for *Boſton*, there to diſpoſe of it; and I'll leave ſuch Directions with my Siſter, that your Nuptials may be performed on your landing. The young Innocent, encouraged by me, having confeſſed with artleſs Bluſhes, how dear you are to her, you may be as happy as her Love and Eſteem can make you. Don't be uneaſy or apprehenſive of ill Uſage from my Wife; it is but obliging her in ſome little Oddities, and all will be well.

By my Maſter's Direction, I went immediately on board, with *Prince*, to get every Thing in Order for ſailing, whom I told, he muſt go this Trip without me; that the Captain was going to

leave Miſs *Molly* at her Aunt's in *Boſton*, a little While, and that he and his Siſter were to attend her while ſhe ſtaid there.

Perceiving the Tears ready to flow from the Boy's Eyes, I chid him; ſaying, I did not think him ſo ungrateful as to ſhew a Backwardneſs in rendering his beſt Services to a young Lady I reſpected, and one that had been conſtantly kind and good to them both. No indeed, Sir, ſays he, I would die to ſave my young Miſtreſs's Life; I love her next yourſelf, beyond every Thing in the World, but cannot help crying that you do not go along with us: This he uttered in Accents ſo broken and ſorrowful, that I could ſcarce forbear weeping myſelf.

The Boat continued to bring Things off all the remaining Part of the Day, and about Noon, on the Morrow, my Maſter, Miſtreſs and Miſs, came on board, when, Anchor was immediately weighed, and they ſtood down the River with a favourable Gale, while I rowed my Miſtreſs aſhore, under dreadful Appre-

prehenſions of the Return of her Criminal Paſſion. Our Adieus were very ſhort, for my Miſtreſs's watchful Eyes had prevented both my ſpeaking and looking on the Treaſure of my Soul; tho' I had a Glance of her juſt as I put the Boat off, holding up her lovely Hands, fixed in one another, as if imploring Heaven for my Preſervation.

My Miſtreſs could not help obſerving a viſible Concern in my Countenance, nor I that gloomy Diſcontent and Reſentment, which appeared in hers, but neither of us opened our Mouths till we landed; then I told her, I was wanted at the Plantation, and that my Attendance there would be neceſſary: You may go, replied ſhe in a Pet, wherever your Inclination leads you, for me; and inſtantly left me.

I continued where the Slaves were at Work, till late in the Evening, and coming home, I found ſhe was gone to Bed extremely ill, with a violent Head-ach, and Pain in her Stomach. As the Small-pox had been very rife in the

Country, and knowing how ſhe dreaded that fatal Diſtemper, I that Night took a Horſe, and brought Mr. *Durell*, the moſt experienced Surgeon in our Parts, who lived about ſeven Miles from us. On his entering her Room, ſhe deſired to know what Chance had brought him this Way ſo opportunely, for ſhe was really worſe than ever ſhe had been in her Life? He made no direct Anſwer to her Queſtion, but immediately enquired into her Complaints, the Symptoms of which plainly indicated it was the Small-pox. He told her his Fears, deſired ſhe would not caſt herſelf down, for by Mr. *Wilſon*'s timely Care of bringing him ſo ſoon, he was under no Apprehenſions of any ill Conſequence that might attend the Diſtemper, ſince none of the many, lately under his Hands, in the ſame Diſorder, had miſcarried, where timely bleeding took Place.

His taking a large Quantity of Blood away, eaſed her Head. When he was gone ſhe ſent for me, thanked me for my Care, declaring ſome Hours before taken ill,

ſhe

ſhe had come to a Reſolution, ſincerely to abandon all criminal Deſires whatſoever; that ſhe never had any before ſhe ſaw me; that altho' my ſteady Repulſes of her inordinate Paſſion had given her inexpreſſible Pain, yet it was now the only Conſolation ſhe had. Hoped the vicious and adulterous Inclination of her Heart would be forgiven, and that ſhe was determined never to fall into the ſame again. Two Days after ſhe became delirious; the Pock came out, and continued ſo near a Month. Mr. *Durell* conſtantly viſited her twice a Day, tho' he had little Hopes of her Recovery; for ſure no Mortal ever had that Diſtemper in a more violent Degree. However, ſhe was on the mending Hand when her Huſband returned, ſeven Weeks after his Departure; but it was impoſſible that he, or any Body elſe could have known her, ſo terrible a Havock had this Enemy to Beauty made, in this late agreeable Woman. Thoſe Eyes that ſparkled like Diamonds, had left their Sockets; that delicate fair Face, tinc-

tured

tured with the Lilly and the Roſe, was now changed into a fiery Red, deeply indented and ſhrivelled into a Hundred coarſe Seams. My Maſter mourned over her, declaring her Loſs of Beauty ſhould rather increaſe than abate his Affections to the End of his Life.

When he returned from her Room he took me into his Cloſet, and gave me the Bills of Lading, and Directions to fit the Sloop for ſailing to *Jamaica* with the utmoſt Expedition; with Orders for loading there, and proceeding directly from thence to *Boſton*; ſaying, he believed I would loſe no Time, as his Daughter waited my Arrival with Impatience; adding, it was with Pleaſure he could now inform me, his wife had become an Advocate for my Marriage.

The Overflowings of my Heart appeared by thoſe of my Eyes, wanting Words to expreſs my Thanks and Gratitude. I fell at his Feet, when he inſtantly took me up, and, embracing me, ſaid, the Thought of my becoming his Son gave him the higheſt Delight, as thereby

thereby he was eaſed of the Anxiety of Mind he had long laboured under, for fear Death ſhould have deprived his dear *Molly* of a Father before ſhe was well ſettled.

Then, without giving me Leave to pay my Acknowledgments for his Goodneſs, he let me know, he had agreed for a Ship, of a Hundred and Fifty Tons, now on the Stocks at *Boſton*, and expected ſhe would be launched in four or five Months; and that he had likewiſe purchaſed almoſt a full Cargo of Goods, proper for the *African* Trade, which he would have me ſhip, as ſoon as the new Veſſel was fit for the Sea, and then I might proceed, after a ſhort Stay here, to the Coaſt of *Guinea*, not doubting, he ſaid, but by Induſtry I might make an advantageous Voyage.

I refitted with the utmoſt Expedition, and ſailed the next Week. After taking a tender Leave, my Miſtreſs aſſured me, I ſhould have her beſt Wiſhes for my ſafe Return, and Happineſs with my dear *Molly*, to whom ſhe deſired her

Bleſſing

Bleſſing and Love, and as an Earneſt of the latter, inſiſted on my preſenting her with the *Tompion*'s Gold Watch, and her beſt Diamond Ring.

I arrived at *Jamaica* in leſs than ſix Weeks, and in eight more anchored in *Boſton* Harbour, at ſeven in the Morning. Soon after I obſerved a Skiff put off from the Shore, in which was my dear *Molly*, and her Aunt; for the firſt no ſooner viewed the well-known Sloop, than they both hurried down to the Beach, and took a Boat to welcome me there. Our Meeting was too full of Extacy and Rapture to deſcribe. The good Aunt wept Tears of Joy at this happy Interview, and ſhewed me her Brother's Directions, which were to ſee us married the Day of my Arrival, if poſſible.

I declared my Readineſs of complying with his Deſires, and hoped my dear *Molly* would make no Objections to the Injunctions of her good Father. She then hid her Face, overſpread with Scarlet, in my Boſom, while ſhe conſented,

and

and our Hands were joined in Church, before the canonical Hour elapſed, which put me in poſſeſſion of an Immenſity of Beauty and Goodneſs.

Prince played a Multitude of antic Tricks, to expreſs his Joy at ſeeing me again, and his Siſter ſeemed as much delighted. My new Ship was not launched till five Months after my Arrival; and tho' I hurried all I could, it was three more before I ſailed from *Boſton*, by which Time my dear Wife was grown very big with Child, and expreſſed a longing Deſire of lying in at home; and altho' we had a foul Wind, I had the Pleaſure of landing her in *Virginia*, in twelve Days, where our Reception was truly affectionate by her Father and Mother, and the next Day ſhe was brought to-bed of a fine Boy.

The declining State of Health of my Father-in-law, cauſed an Alloy in our Joy, which he perceiving, put on all the Gaiety and good Humour imaginable. He was exceſſively fond of his Daughter and Grandſon, but only lived to ſee the Infant

Infant christened at the Month's End, dying two Days afterwards, with great Resignation, leaving his Widow a Moiety of his Effects, and likewise half the Profits of the Plantation during her Life, appointing me sole Executor. We all sincerely lamented the Loss of this just and good Man.

As I waited for some Hands to compleat my Compliment of Men for the Slave-Trade, where I was bound, Heaven prevented my making that Voyage by my Ship's taking Fire by Lightning, as she lay at Anchor, and all Endeavours to put it out proving ineffectual, she and the whole Cargo were intirely consumed.

This unfortunate Disaster obliged me to lay aside all Thoughts of proceeding in a Trade of such Consequence, where another Miscarriage might have been our Ruin: Nor was I, indeed, satisfied in my Conscience of the Legality of it, having often in my last Voyage, looked on the Traffic of the human Species, with Horror and Concern. I therefore determined

to

to return to *Boston*, where I had left my Sloop, and if she remained undisposed of, to carry on the same Trade among our Colonies, as formerly used by my Father. Luckily she was not sold, so I brought her home, and continued to make advantageous Trips for several Years.

No Couple in the World lived more contented, or happier than my Wife and I did. Our Family was blessed with an Increase of seven Children, when it pleased Heaven to deprive us of my Mother-in-law, who, notwithstanding the Loss of her Eyes, was extreamly useful in the House, and we were truly concerned at her Death.

Prince was now grown a genteel young Fellow, perfectly well made, and taller than any Black I have seen, being six Feet two Inches high, and as I had taken a great deal of Pains in his Education, he repaid me with Assiduity, Gratitude, and Fidelity; nor was his Sister less wanting in Returns of Gratitude and Thankfulness, which hourly discovered them-

themſelves in a Tenderneſs of Behaviour to my Wife and Children.

As I had Intentions of returning with my Wife and Family to *England*, I informed my faithful *Prince* and *Dutcheſs* of it; declaring, in conſideration of their many faithful Services, their Miſtreſs and myſelf had agreed to give them their Choice of the three following Propoſals.

The Firſt was of giving them abſolute Freedom, and leaving them the ſole Care and Management of my Plantation and Stock in *Virginia*, under ſuch advantageous Conditions, that it ſhould be in their Power to live handſomely, and ſave a Fortune, in Time, for themſelves. The Second was, to take them along with us to my own Country, where they ſhould be either continued in our Houſe, or put into ſome profitable Way of maintaining themſelves. Or, laſtly, if neither of thoſe were agreeable, I would land them in their Father's Kingdom, and plentifully ſupply them with all Kinds

of

of Neceſſaries that might be wanted there.

Dutcheſs cried and ſobbed all the while I was ſpeaking: She complained, that her Maſter and Miſtreſs muſt be angry, and tired of her, by talking of parting; yet, ſince a Choice was kindly given, ſhe declared a Reſolution never to leave our Service, nor the dear Children ſhe had conſtantly attended, while ſhe lived; no not to be the greateſt Queen on Earth.

Prince fell at my Feet, and embraced my Knees, crying out, Dear Maſter, you are too good to your Slaves; but I can accept of none of your generous Offers till I ſee you ſafely ſettled in *England*; nor even then, and ſeeing you happy there, will ſcarcely ſupport me under the Grief I ſhall ſuffer at leaving you; ſince nothing could induce my ſo doing, but the Duty I owe the King, my Father, and Love of my Countrymen, whom I hope, and propoſe to civilize, and improve, by the Education you have been pleaſed to beſtow on

me; being ſatisfied every Man's Country requires this of him, nay, his Life, if he could benefit the Community thereby.

I admired his Virtue, and heard with Pleaſure the heroic Sentiments of his Heart; gave him freſh Aſſurances of my Friendſhip, and carrying him to *England* with me, where he ſhould remain a Year, or two, if he choſe it, for his better Improvement in Arts and Sciences, to which he was now an utter Stranger: From thence I could eaſily procure a Paſſage home for him, in ſome of the many Ships that yearly ſail for the Coaſt of *Guinea*.

He was highly delighted with this Inſtance of my Regard, and expreſſed a lively Senſe of his Thankfulneſs and Gratitude. I now began to make Preparation in Earneſt for leaving *Virginia*, but firſt ſailed to *Nevis* with a Cargo I had by me to diſpoſe of. On my Return, near the Capes, I had the Misfortune to fall in with *Blackbeard*, the famous Pirate, who detained me many

Days,

Days, he having put twenty of his Men on board my Sloop, and proceeded for the Coaſt of *New-England*. We made the Land early in the Morning, and ſaw a Sail, pretty well in with the Shore, to which he immediately gave Chace with his Ship of Eighteen Guns, a Sloop of Twelve, and mine of Six; and though there was little Wind, we were ſoon up with her, for ſhe lay by ready to engage. Fortunately for me, ſhe proved to be the ſtationed Man of War of twenty-four Guns: *Blackbeard* immediately ranged his Ship along-ſide, while the two Sloops were to lie on the Bow and Quarter. The deſperate Fellow that Commanded on board of me was drunk, as well as moſt of the Crew, and got within Piſtol-ſhot. *Prince* and I being put down the Fore-hatchway, during the Engagement, he obſerved through a Crack in the Bulk-head, a Match burning, near two Barrels of Gunpowder, when inſtantly he cried out, Maſter, let us run up, and jump over-board, or we ſhall be blown up

with

with the Veſſel. He had no ſooner ſaid theſe Words, than we did ſo, and ſwam directly on board the Man of War, and in leſs than five Minutes afterwards, the Exploſion happened: A Quantity of Fire thrown into the King's Ship, ſet ſome of her Sails in a Blaze, and it was with Difficulty extinguiſhed.

In the mean time, the Pirates ſheered off, and made their Eſcape. Soon after, we came into *Boſton*, where I bought the new Ship I am now in, as ſhe lay in the Harbour, compleatly fitted; and wanting only Men to carry her to *Virginia*, an Accident the ſame Week ſupplied me with them and a Cargo, by a Veſſel's coming in, in Diſtreſs, bound from *Newfoundland* for *Liſbon*, with Bacalio. She was laid on Shore, and, on a Survey of her Bottom, condemned, as unfit for further Service. This was a great Misfortune to the Commander, his Fiſh being in the fineſt Order, and beſt cured of any I had obſerved, yet was of little Value there.

The

The Captain came every Day to teize me to purchaſe his Lading, affirming, the Profit I might make thereof in a ſhort Voyage, would fall little ſhort of paying for my new Ship. At length I was prevailed on to buy it, and took that and his People on board, who all readily entered with me, to proceed to *Liſbon*, then to *Virginia*, and from the laſt Place to *London*; by which you may perceive I never intended a Voyage here, nor, indeed, any other, but that with my Family to *England*. I ſhould have taken Notice, before I left *Boſton*, of having diſpatched *Prince* in a Schooner bound to *Jamaica*, with full Power to collect and receive ſeveral Sums of Money due to me there, and get what *London* Bills he could for it, and I expect his Return before my Arrival at home.

Thus, Gentlemen, I have given you my Hiſtory, in which, to avoid Prolixity, I have curtailed as many immaterial Circumſtances as poſſible. The Hand of Providence has been very con-

ſpicuous, nor ſhall I ever omit being thankful for the many ſignal Preſervations and Bleſſings it has afforded me.

Captain *Wilſon* again intreated Mr. *Richmore*'s Acceptance of his former Propoſals, and preſſed his Return with him to his native Country. He excuſed himſelf, as well as he could, having already entered into the Queen's Service; yet declared, he ſhould ever retain the moſt grateful Senſe of the Obligations conferred upon him, and thoſe generous Offers he had ſo kindly made. While they were talking, they heard the Signal Gun for unmooring, and, in leſs than an Hour, the Man of War weighed Anchor, and ſailed out of the *Tagus*. Though their Parting was a little abrupt, friendly Tears were ſhed on both Sides, and reciprocal Promiſes of Friendſhip made, and many kind Wiſhes for each other's Proſperity; and though Mr. *Richmore* abſolutely refuſed taking a large Sum of Money, which Captain *Wilſon* ſaid might be of Uſe to him, yet, no ſooner was he gone, than he

was

was told by Captain *Travanion*, that he had a Commiſſion to deliver into his Hands Three Hundred Moidores, which were privately left for his Uſe, by Mr. *Wilſon*, a little before their parting.

CHAP. XXIII.

IN the latter End of *Auguſt*, 1705, Mr. *Richmore* arrived with the Man of War at *Barcelona*. They found the *Engliſh* Fleet there, and the Earl of *Peterborough*, with the Army already landed, and encamped near the Town. Mr. *Richmore* met a polite and civil Reception from his Officer Colonel *Price*, and was approved by the General, who ſigned his Commiſſion, as Enſign, in Captain *Travanion*'s Company; with whom he commenced a Friendſhip, which proved not only agreeable, but greatly uſeful to a young Gentleman, juſt entered into a Military Employ, and facilitated his Preferment to a Lieu-

tenancy, in the ſeventh Month of his Service.

To paſs over the Buſineſs of the Campaign, as foreign to this Hiſtory, Captain *Richmore*, on a March back into *Catalonia*, whither he had been ordered by his Commander, had the Misfortune of falling extremely ill of a Fever, and was left behind the Troops, at a ſmall Village on the Road. Some of the Inhabitants having informed the Enemy thereof, a Lieutenant, and a Party of twenty Men were ſent to make him a Priſoner. The *Spaniſh* Officer, whoſe Name was *Fitzgerald*, behaved in the moſt generous and humane Manner imaginable; he found him in no Condition to be removed, therefore took his Parole to remain his Priſoner; after which he promiſed to return the next Day with their Surgeon, a Man ſkilful in his Profeſſion, by whoſe Aſſiſtance and Care he got the better of his Diſtemper, and daily gathered Strength.

It ſhould here be obſerved, that Captain *Richmore's* Servant was a Dragoon,

and

and on the Approach of this Party, verily believing his Maſter could not recover, having been delirious two or three Days, made off with his Horſe and Money, and what elſe he could get, and had the good Luck to join the Army. He informed Captain *Travanion*, of whoſe Company he was, of all that had happened, producing the Money he had brought away; declaring, he would not have left his Maſter, had he not been aſſured, it was next to an Impoſſibility he ſhould ſurvive two Hours in the Condition he was then in. Though Captain *Travanion* received the Dragoon's Account with great Concern, and remained melancholy a great while, for the Loſs of his Friend, he commended the Dragoon's Addreſs, in ſaving himſelf from becoming a Priſoner. The Loſs of Captain *Richmore*'s Caſh, was ſuch an Embarraſſment to him, that he was obliged to inform Captain *Fitzgerald* thereof, who immediately pulled out his Purſe, and divided the Contents, which was about nineteen Piſtoles; ſaying, he

heartily rejoiced, it was in his Power to oblige a Brother Officer, and desired he would believe, both his Pocket and Interest, during his Stay with them, was, without a Compliment, at his Service. This Gentleman-like Behaviour required the utmost Acknowledgements, but he would not admit of any; declaring, he was satisfied, that any Man of Honour would have behaved to him in the same Manner, under the same Circumstances.

Soon after, Captain *Richmore* went with him to the Enemy's Army, where he was examined by the General, and left to the Care of *Fitzgerald*, at his Request, till exchanged.

An odd Incident happened on his being conducted to the Captain's Quarters; for his Servant, on the first View of his Face, concealed himself, and could not be found the whole Day: The next Morning he was brought to his Master, by those he had sent in quest of him. On enquiring the Reasons of his absconding, the poor Fellow begged

ged he would diſcharge him his Service, and ſuffer him to return to his Duty in the Company.

Captain *Fitzgerald*, ſurpriſed at his Requeſt, demanded to know what could occaſion his being deſirous of leaving him, after having more than two Years conſtantly attended him? Oh, Sir, replied he, I have injured and betrayed the Gentleman within too much, ever to hope he can pardon me, for I would have taken his Life away, although I owe mine to him.

He then proceeded to inform his Maſter of his having belonged to a *Mooriſh* Veſſel, commanded by his Brother, a Renegado; their taking a *Portugueze* Ship, in which Captain *Richmore* was a Paſſenger; the Recovery thereof, ſoon after, by him, and ſome others on board, and their meeting with a *Portugal* Man of War; that he muſt have been hanged, had not the Captain, out of Compaſſion to his Youth, concealed his being one of the Infidel's Crew; that afterwards, by the Perſuaſions of a

Prieſt, his Countryman, he took a falſe Oath, that *Richmore*, and the other *Engliſhmen* in the Ship, had murdered the *Portugueſe*, and was running away with the Veſſel and Cargo, *&c.* (as related in a former Part of this Hiſtory) but that his whole Intention in ſwearing this Lye, was, that he might gain the Liberty he was promiſed, which if he obtained on coming to *Liſbon*, he was reſolved to make his Eſcape, before any Diſcovery of his Perjury. This he did two Days after his Arrival in that City, and never thought himſelf ſafe till he got to the Army, where he had remained ever ſince.

Well, *Patrick*, replied the Captain, for your appearing ſenſible of, and ſorry for your Villany, by truly confeſſing it to me, I will endeavour to obtain Captain *Richmore*'s Forgiveneſs. He then went to Captain *Richmore*, and related all that had paſſed between himſelf and his Servant.

As Captain *Richmore* was always of Opinion, that the iniquitous and falſe Affidavit before-mentioned, was the wicked

wicked Contrivance of the Prieſt, he deſired the Fellow might be called in, which being done, *Patrick* fell at his Feet, with a Countenance expreſſive of Grief and Remorſe. He gave him the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances of being convinced, that Father *Gabagan* was more to blame than he, and that it plainly appeared, the ſaving his own Life was his chief Inducement for taking ſuch an Oath, without any malicious Deſign of endangering the Lives of innocent Men; that in this Light he looked on him, rather as an Object of Compaſſion, than Reſentment, and heartily forgave him.

The poor Man went away tranſported; ſaying, he would pray for the Captain as long as he lived. At Captain *Fitzgerald*'s Requeſt, *Richmore* informed him particularly of whatever regarded the Impriſonment and cruel Treatment of himſelf and Companions; their Diſcharge, and of his long Detainer afterwards in the Inquiſition, and how happily he was delivered from thence.

He ſeemed greatly ſurpriſed, and expreſſed the higheſt Reſentment againſt the whole Body of Eccleſiaſtics, declaring, that ſince his fifteen Years Reſidence in *Spain*, the immoral Lives, Cruelty, Avarice, and deep Hypocriſy of the greateſt Part of them, had almoſt deprived him of the little Religion he had brought from *Ireland*.

It was near four Months before there was any Cartel for the Exchange of Priſoners, during which Time, Captain *Richmore* had ſeveral Opportunities of writing, and receiving Returns from Captain *Travanion*, which enabled him to diſcharge his Money-Obligations to the generous *Fitzgerald*, but thoſe of another Kind were not in his Power to repay.

Fitzgerald attended Captain *Richmore* to the Place appointed for the Exchange of Priſoners, where he had the Pleaſure of meeting with Major *Travanion*, one of the Commiſſioners. The latter ſaluted him with Tenderneſs, on account of the Favours received by his Friend, while he re-

remained in their Camp. They parted with Regret, each of them having complained of being, by ill Fortune, placed in adverſe Armies. However, this did not prevent their profeſſing ſuch a reciprocal Friendſhip, as was not repugnant to the Rules of War, and their own Honours. Captain *Richmore* found his Regiment returned from *Alicant*; and one *Webb*, a young Man, lately come into it, who had ſerved ſome Years in *Flanders*, challenged him for a School-fellow: He ſoon recollected him to be a Gentleman's Son, whoſe Father had mortgaged his Eſtate, which was upwards of Three Hundred Pounds a Year, to *Gripe*, his Uncle *Richmore*'s Father-in-law. That his taking Poſſeſſion thereof, on Mr. *Webb*'s Death, had obliged the Son to leave the Kingdom, and ſeek Bread in the Army. He proved a worthy Man, and it was with Pleaſure his Intereſt procured him a Halbert in his Company. The Officers flocked round him, to enquire how he was uſed by the Enemy, and his Account did ſo much Juſtice to the ge-

nerous *Iriſh* Officer, that his Health was frequently toaſted among them, by that Name, for many Months afterwards.

Some Time after an *Engliſh* Serjeant, with ſixteen Men, found Means of privately leaving their Quarters, in the Dead of the Night, with an Intention of marauding in a Diſtrict, about eight Leagues off, poſſeſſed by the Enemy. In their Retreat with conſiderable Plunder, they chanced to fall in with a Party of one Hundred and twenty of the Enemy's Horſe, commanded by a Colonel, who was eſcorting ſix Mules laden with Money, to pay the Garriſon of *Balaguer*, and likewiſe ſeveral Carts, loaded with Ammunition for that Place, which evidently appeared afterwards they were in great Want of.

As it was impoſſible to prevent the Horſe coming up with them, the Serjeant, who was a bold daring young Fellow, as well as thoſe he had choſen to be Partners in his Enterpriſe, retired into a Farm Houſe, with a Reſolution to defend themſelves and their Booty. The

Spaniſh

Spaniſh Officer, contrary to all Diſcipline, was ſo indiſcreet as to ride into the Yard, with his whole Detachment, without any Order. This expoſed them to the cloſe Fire of ſeventeen Men well covered, and before they could form themſelves, or recover the Confuſion they were in, they received a ſecond, which did great Execution.

As there was but a narrow Entrance into the Farm Yard by a Gate, the *Spaniards* found it difficult to retire; for the Paſſage was quite ſtopped up by ſo many preſſing at once to go through. In this Situation, a third Fire proved as fatal to them as the two former; and preſently after the dry Straw, with which the Yard was covered almoſt three Feet deep, the Serjeant and his People ſet in a Blaze, by which many, that remained unhurt by their Muſkets, were miſerably burnt and diſabled. Thoſe that got off, fled with with ſuch Precipitancy, having loſt their chief Officers, that they left the loaded Mules and Carts which were in the Rear, an eaſy Prey to the Conquerors,

querors, who brought the Money and Mules along with them, having firſt deſtroyed the Ammunition; and then they all mounted Horſes taken from the Enemy, with a Deſign of returning to their Quarters, with the utmoſt Expedition.

Soon after, in a hallow Way between ſome Vineyards, the Serjeant and his Party encountered a Coach, drawn by ſix Mules, richly capariſoned, and dreſſed out with Ribands of various Colours, which was attended by five or ſix Cavaliers on Horſe-back, and ſeveral Servants dreſſed in gay Liveries.

The Serjeant being ſatisfied they were Partiſans of King *Philip*, rode directly up to the Coach, telling the Company therein that they were King *Charles*'s Priſoners; at the ſame time he deſired the two Ladies (who appeared afterwards to be Mother and Daughter) would not be frighted, or under any Apprehenſion of ill Treatment, for that they, as well as the two ancient Dons, might depend on being uſed civilly. The latter finding them-

themſelves left by the Gentlemen and Attendants, endeavoured to perſuade the Serjeant to accept of a Sum of Money, to let them paſs without Interruption; and, beſides, aſſured him of good Preferment in King *Philip*'s Army, if he would change Sides and come off with them.

The young Lady, who was exceedingly beautiful, ſeemed to be pleaſed at the Serjeant's refuſing theſe advantageous Propoſals. He had Diſcernment enough to diſcover, by a Wink ſhe gave him, how much ſhe approved of his Refuſal, notwithſtanding ſhe uſed many Arguments to induce him to comply. Among others, ſhe told him that one of the Gentlemen was her Father, and the Perſon who ſat oppoſite, her Lover, to whom ſhe was going to be married, in Obedience to her Father's Commands: Yet, the Manner in which ſhe addreſſed herſelf, plainly ſhewed ſhe did not deſire to obtain the Favour requeſted.

As it was neceſſary no Time ſhould be loſt, for fear of ſuperior Parties of

the

the Enemy overtaking them, before they got out of their Diſtricts, the Coach was ordered to turn about, take their Route, and put the Mules to a full Trot. By the Way, the young Lady intimated to her Father, that if ſhe could get an Opportunity of talking with the Officer who commanded, by himſelf, out of the Hearing of his People, ſhe was almoſt perſuaded it would be no difficult Matter to obtain all their Releaſes. The Father and Lover both approved and commiſſioned her to double the former Offers, or more, rather than fail.

A little Houſe on the Road happening to be in View, the young Lady beckoned the Serjeant, who rode very near them. She told him her Mother was taken exceedingly ill, and begged a ſhort Stop might be made at the Farm which was in Sight, to get ſome Spring Water, to prevent her fainting. He agreed thereto, without the leaſt Heſitation, and handed the Ladies out of the Coach, as ſoon as they arrived at it. The Daughter, before

before they got into the Houſe, gave the Serjeant a Squeeze by the Hand, ſaying, they muſt have ſome Converſation by themſelves.

On his going into a Room with her, ſhe firſt demanded to know truly, whether he was a ſingle Man, and he having aſſured her he was, ſhe proceeded. Cavalier, ſaid ſhe, you are already acquainted that one of the Gentlemen is my Father, and the other ancient Perſon, to whom, much againſt my Inclination, I was to have been married this Morning, at a Church, within half a League of the Place where you ſtopped us. The lucky Meeting, to my infinite Joy, has prevented the Celebration of our Nuptials. My Mother is ſo averſe to the Match, that, though I am an only Child, ſhe would rather have attended me to the Grave, than ſeen me buried alive in the Arms of a Man old enough to be my Grandfather; nor is that all, for *Spain* never produced a Mortal ſo haughty, jealous, and ill-natured.

It is, Sir, with a general Consent, I am allowed to treat with you for our Liberty. I was under the utmost Concern, for fear you should have accepted of their Propofals; for had you so done, I must have been inevitably miserable. And now, Captain, ingenuously tell me whether you can approve of me for a Wife? I am under a Necessity of breaking through some Decorums, and the natural Modesty of my Sex, but hope you will excuse it, as this may be the only Opportunity I shall ever have of knowing your Sentiments.

The Serjeant generously undeceived her, in regard of his being an Officer, though he confessed himself a younger Brother of a good Family, in the West of *England*; and protested, had he Means of supporting her becoming her Quality, he should think himself the happiest Man on Earth by the Honour she had done him.

If that is your only Objection, continued she, I believe it will be easily removed by my informing you I am Heir-

ess

ſs to a very large Eſtate, and that my Mother and I have Jewels about us, worth more than fifteen Hundred Piſtoles. She, I am ſatisfied, will readily agree to our Marriage, on the Project I have formed being put in Execution. Firſt then, I would have you permit my Father and Lover to be brought to us; I will in your Abſence tell them, I have prevailed on you to favour their Eſcape from this Houſe, on the Payment of five Hundred Piſtoles (which I know they have with them) and ſhall then acquaint them, I could not obtain Liberty for my Mother and myſelf, till we were carried before your General, who you inſiſted would immediately ſend us back, with a proper Guard. By this Means, you will appear leſs blameable than if you had ſuffered us all to eſcape. When this is done, and the old Gentlemen are gone off, on your coming into our Coach, you ſhall hear the reſt.

The Serjeant, in high Spirits, agreed to the young Lady's Scheme, and promiſed, that two Horſes ſhould be ready

at

at the back Door for the Cavaliers to mount; in order to which they ſhould immediately be conducted to her; but adviſed Diſpatch, as any long Continuance on the Road might be attended with Danger and Inconveniency. No ſooner were the Dons informed of the Conditions ſhe had made with the commanding Officer, but they readily complied with them, and inſtantly mounted the Horſes provided for them, much ſatisfied they got off ſo well; eſpecially the Lover, who was a violent Oppoſer of King *Charles*'s Intereſt, and greatly dreaded falling into his Hands.

In a few Minutes, the Coach, with the Ladies and Serjeant, ſet out again. After ſome Converſation, the Mother propoſed having the young Couple married at the firſt Church or Chapel they came to, provided they were in Safety. As they had now no more than two Leagues to get out of the Enemies Territories, they ſoon quitted them, and, with a handſome Gratuity, prevailed on a Prieſt to ſolemnize the Nuptials in his Chapel.

Chapel. When this was done, the Serjeant, not knowing how he ſhould come off with his Officers, notwithſtanding his unwarrantable Expedition had been attended with ſuch unexpected Succeſs, called his People together, and acquainted them with his Fears, and his Intention of writing a Letter to his Captain, who had always been his Friend, with a particular Account of every thing that had happened, and propoſed remaining with his Bride at the Prieſt's Houſe, and that the Party ſhould advance no farther with the Mules, till two of them, which were to go with the Letter, ſhould return with an Anſwer, by which Means they ſhould know what Turn their Affairs would take.

This being approved of, two of them accordingly ſet out to wait on the Captain, but by the Way were arreſted as Deſerters, by ſome of their own Regiment. This plainly ſhewed the Serjeant's Caution neceſſary, for it had been generally thought they had all deſerted to the Enemy; however, as they were carried

carried to the Captain, he received the Letter, and obliged the Men to go along with him to the Colonel, who could hardly believe the romantic Relation they gave of their Enterprise. The defeating such a strong Party of Horse, destroying so much Ammunition, and the bringing off the Escort of Money, together with the Serjeant's Marriage to a Nobleman's Daughter, were so surprising, that he looked upon the whole as a Fiction, contrived to obtain Pardon for their wilful Breach of positive Orders not to stir from their Quarters, without Leave from their Officers. Yet, he said, were all true they pretended, he did not see how they could be exempted from being tried by a Court-martial, and punished for disobeying Orders: Nevertheless the General should be informed of every Transaction, before he would give any Direction concerning them. In the mean Time, he gave them Leave to return to their Quarters, with a Charge never to be guilty of the like Offence again.

The

The Colonel gave Direction to the Serjeant's Officer to go to him, and if he found the Facts really true, and that no Force was put on the young Lady's Inclinations, out of Respect to her, he might leave him still at Liberty: But, on the contrary, if the least Violence appeared, he would have him immediately brought under an Arrest to him, and the Ladies treated with the utmost Politeness and Respect.

The Captain was not displeased with his Instructions, having a particular Regard for the young Serjeant. He was conducted to him by the two Men who had been on the Party. He first talked with the Priest, and by him was told, that he had married an *English* Officer to a young *Spanish* Lady, at her own and her Mother's Request, otherwise he would not have ventured to have done it on any Occasion; that the Bride and Bridegroom were above Stairs with their Mother, and, if he pleased, he would introduce him to them.

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The Captain returned Thanks, intimating, at the ſame Time, he ſhould be obliged to the Father if he would let the Bridegroom know that an Officer would be glad to ſpeak with him. On his coming down, the Captain took him by the Hand, ſaying, Honeſt *Harry*, I wiſh you Joy with all my Heart, and am pleaſed at your good Fortune; and then told him the Colonel's Orders, with a Hint, that it would be proper for him to pay his Duty at the Colonel's Quarters the next Morning.

The Serjeant confeſſed himſelf infinitely obliged to his Officer for the Favours he well knew he muſt have done him with the Colonel. He recounted the whole Expedition, and begged he would honour the Ladies with his Company, for from them he would ſoon be ſatisfied, that neither Force, Threatenings, nor any other ungentleman-like Means had been uſed in gaining the Conſent of his Wife, *Donna Iſabella*, notwithſtanding her being an only Child,

and

and Heireſs to one of the wealthieſt Grandees in *Spain*.

On the Captain's being introduced to the Room where the Ladies were, he ſoon perceived, by the Smiles on both their Countenances, that the Serjeant's Behaviour had been unblameable; yet further to convince him, the Mother expreſſed her Approbation of her Daughter's Choice; and the young Lady owned, with a Bluſh, that ſhe thought the Service her Huſband had done her, in preventing the diſagreeable Match her Father was forcing her to, in common Gratitude, could only be repaid by making him Maſter of her Perſon and Fortune.

The Captain, after ſpending about an Hour with them, took a complaiſant Leave, and returned the ſame Evening to the Colonel, with a Confirmation of all that had been before related; concluding with many Encomiums on the Beauty of the young *Spaniard*, and the affable, polite Addreſs of both the Ladies. A circumſtantial Account of this

Affair was tranſmitted to the General, Count *Starenberg*, who was then with the King. His Majeſty, on this Information, being deſirous to ſhew particular Marks of his Favour to the Lady, and Daughter of a *Spaniſh* Grandee, ordered that they ſhould be honourably conducted to Court; where they met with a Reception ſuitable to their Quality, and the Serjeant, by his Appointment, was preferred to the Command of a Troop of Horſe.

Undoubtedly the Serjeant and Soldiers would have been ſeverely puniſhed, according to the ſtrict Rules of Diſcipline, but in Conſideration of the Succeſs and Service with which this Expedition was attended, no farther Notice was taken thereof.

CHAP. XXIV.

BEFORE it was light, in the Morning of the unfortunate Attack at *Bribuega*, (in which, about eight Thouſand

ſand brave men of the *Engliſh* Army, were either killed or taken Priſoners, by which our Affairs were entirely ruined in *Spain*) Captain *Richmore* was ſent out with a Party of Thirty Dragoons, to gain Intelligence, and reconnoitre the Strength of the Enemy, who had formed a ſeparate Body to their Left. Although they advanced with all imaginable Caution, at the Dawn of Day, they found they had got more than a Mile within ſeveral Squadrons of the Enemy's Horſe, which had been detached for the ſame Purpoſe. Soon after, they could plainly perceive from a Hill, the main *Spaniſh* Army, at the Diſtance of about ſix Miles, in Motion towards *Briuega*; this determined him to ſtrike away to the Right, in hopes to prevent being cut off from retreating to their Camp. But unfortunately another of the Enemies Detachments, which could not then be ſeen for a little Coppice, appeared full in front; however, there being a ſmall Opening between the two Detachments, they put their Horſes to the full

Gallop, and puſhed for it, and would have got clear off, had they not been ſtopped by a ſmall River, with ſuch high Banks on each Side, as made a Paſſage over it quite impracticable.

When their Purſuers came up with them, the Captain cauſed his Dragoons to diſmount and occupy a Mill that ſtood thereon, which they defended with Vigour, while they had any Ammunition left. Several of his Men had fallen, and among them Serjeant *Webb*, juſt as he was about to ſurrender, in Compaſſion to the Lives of thoſe that remained.

Captain *Richmore* received a Muſket Ball in his right Breaſt, which paſſed out under the left Shoulder. What happened afterwards he was totally ignorant of, and perhaps might have remained ſo for ever, had it not been for Serjeant *Webb*, who, on recovering from the Wound himſelf had received in his Forehead, which was only a Contuſion, the Ball having ſlant-way taken off the Fleſh, about the Breadth of a Shil-

a Shilling, close to the Scull, observed the Captain lying near him, bleeding, and stark naked; but on feeling his Pulse, and putting his Face close to his Mouth, was satisfied he was not dead.

The Miller, who had hid himself during the Action, declared, that the Enemy had been retired about an Hour, having made the rest of the Party Prisoners; that he had seen them strip the Officer, and took the Serjeant's Coat and Waistcoat away, though they only rifled the Pockets of the dead Men. The Serjeant then implored his Assistance in procuring a Bed, and a Surgeon to dress his Officer's Wounds, for he had still Hopes, with proper Care, they might not prove mortal.

The Miller declared his utter Inability to do either: But informed him, the Lady of whom he rented the Mill, lived within half a Mile from thence; that she was a Widow, who possessed a very large Estate; was very charitable, and by her Skill in Surgery, did a great deal of Good in the Country;

that if he was able to walk ſo far, he would immediately conduct him to her. Then wrapping the Captain up in an old Blanket, which was all he was able to procure, the Serjeant put on one of the dead Dragoon's Coats, and inſtantly went to her Houſe.

It was not long before he was admitted to her Preſence; when on his Knees he begged her Aid and Aſſiſtance, and was proceeding to tell his Story in the *Spaniſh* Language, when ſhe courteouſly ordered him to riſe, and tell it in *Engliſh*, for he might obſerve, ſhe well underſtood that Language. When he had done, ſhe particularly enquired into the Nature of the Wounds; in what Part of the Body, and how long ſince they were received? And being acquainted therewith, ſhe replied, No Time muſt be loſt, I will only ſtep up Stairs, for ſome Things to carry with me, and attend you to him.

She returned preſently, bringing a Plaſter in her Hand, which ſhe put on the Serjeant's Forehead; then told him

ſhe

ſhe was now ready to go. As ſhe went out of the Door, ſhe whiſpered one of her Maids; which the Serjeant afterwards imagined conveyed Inſtructions to her for the preparing a warm Bed, by the Readineſs he found it in when Captain *Richmore* was brought thither. After carefully examining, probing and dreſſing his Wounds, ſhe appeared extreamly doubtful. She told the Serjeant, although all Symptoms were very unpromiſing, he ſhould, nevertheleſs, have all the Aſſiſtance in her Power. That if the Miller, who was a ſtrong Man, as well as himſelf, would undertake carrying him to her Houſe, thro' a Vineyard of hers which almoſt reached to the Mill, ſhe would uſe her beſt Endeavours to preſerve his Life; nor was ſhe entirely without Hopes of his Recovery, ſhe ſaid, notwithſtanding the vaſt Quantity of Blood ſhe obſerved he had loſt.

The Serjeant, aſſiſted by the Miller, brought him thither, and carried him to a Bed adjoining to her own Cham-

ber; after which, ſhe acquainted the former he ſhould likewiſe lie in the Houſe, till either his Officer's Death or Recovery. She gratified the Miller, her Tenant, for his Trouble, and ſent him away with a ſtrict Charge not to tell any Body of a wounded Man's being brought to her Houſe. This, ſhe ſaid, might be eaſily concealed, as none had ſeen him brought in; the Country People having all fled at the firſt Alarm of Firing. Beſides, her Situation was among Vineyards, more than half a Mile from Town, or any other Dwelling, but the Mill; the Owner of which promiſed to be ſecret, and kept his Word.

The next Morning, Madam *Cordoſa* propoſed the Serjeant's leaving off his Regimentals, and putting on a Livery ſhe had by her. Her ſervant, ſhe ſaid, being the Week before diſcharged for ſeveral pilfering Tricks, in which ſhe had detected him. That his Appearance as a Waiting-man, would prevent any Diſcovery of her entertaining Strangers in thoſe troubleſome Times.

He

He conſented, and from that Time, to their leaving her Houſe, none ſuſpected he was otherwiſe than her Servant. This Reſolution was providential, by what happened on the Fifth Night afterwards.

The Villain that had been turned away, believing no other Perſons were in the Houſe than thoſe he had left there; (which Family conſiſted of Women, except an ancient infirm Man, who had lived a great Number of Years with the Widow's late Huſband, and the old Man's Nephew, a Lad of about fourteen Years of Age) with four others broke open the Houſe, by forcing a Cellar-window; the Door that opened into the Kitchen was bolted, but the Hinges were too weak to withſtand any conſiderable Strength; yet the Noiſe occaſioned by forcing it, waked a little Dog, who by his Barking alarmed the Widow, who then happened to be up Stairs in Captain *Richmore*'s Chamber, with Serjeant *Webb*.

She went out, and by liſtening diſtinctly, heard the Voices of ſeveral Men below, as they were endeavouring to get into a Buttery, where the Plate in Uſe was commonly kept. In the utmoſt Fright and Confuſion, ſhe informed the Serjeant thereof. As there were ſeveral good Fire-arms in the Houſe, he encouraged her, with Aſſurances of ſtanding by her, as long as he remained alive, and deſired ſhe would call the old Man and Boy, while he new-primed the Arms.

They both joined him, before the Thieves attempted to come up; he gave a Muſket to each, bidding them follow him to the Stair-Head, and ſilently wait till they approached, and fire at them as they aſcended. In a few Minutes they came all running up together, the Serjeant and old Man diſcharged, killed one, and mortally wounded another. The poor Boy having fainted away with the Gun in his Hand, the Serjeant inſtantly catched it up, and ſhot another of the Rogues dead; the remaining two, frighted and diſmayed, would

would have eſcaped, but he purſued them ſo cloſely, down Stairs, with his Broad-ſword, they were ſoon diſabled from flying; and the wounded Men he ſecured by binding them faſt. By this Time it was almoſt Day-light. The Widow, with her Daughter and Maids, continued locked up in a Room together, till Serjeant *Webb* came to inform them every Thing was ſafe, and the ſurviving Thieves ſo firmly bound that it was not in their Power to do farther Miſchief, or prevent their being delivered into the Hands of Juſtice.

They all returned Thanks for their Preſervation, and made the Serjeant the ſincereſt Acknowledgements. Madam *Cordoſa* ordered the Boy to the Alcaid's Houſe, in the adjoining Town, with a Letter, in which ſhe acquainted him with all that had happened; begging him to ſend proper Officers immediately, to convey the Robbers to Priſon. In leſs than an Hour, he came himſelf, attended by many others. He took the Examination and Affidavits of the Fa-

mily on the Spot, viewed the dead Men, as alſo thoſe who were living.

Among the latter was found *Roderic*, her late Footman. On his being diſcovered, he confeſſed (being very near expiring with his Wounds) their Intention was to rob the Houſe, and murder every Perſon in it; adding, if he had lived two Days longer in his Service, none preſent would have been alive to give Evidence againſt him. The two others likewiſe concurred in his Confeſſion. The Alcaid congratulated the Widow and Family's providential Preſervation, and greatly commended the Fidelity, Reſolution and Bravery of her preſent Servant: He ordered the Villains to be carried to the Town Goal, and ſoon after they met their deſerved Fate.

Richmore continued ſix Weeks in a State nearly reſembling Death, totally void of all Senſation whatſoever. In the Seventh, he began to have ſome confuſed Ideas: He ſaw ſeveral ſtrange Faces about him, that ſeemed to render all the Services in their Power. By Degrees,

grees, he recovered Recollection, remembered all that had happened on the Morning of the Action; the defending the Mill, and the Fall of poor *Webb*; but every Thing, from that Time, was quite obliterated. His great Perplexity was to find out where he was, who were the People he had ſeen, or how he came to that Place. He had made ſome Efforts to ſpeak, yet found himſelf unable; when he attempted it; and ever obſerved a grave Matron ſitting by him, who, by ſignificant Motions, ſeemed to diſſuade him from ſo doing.

One Morning ſeeing Madam *Cordoſa* in his Room, he made Signs for Pen, Ink, and Paper. She brought them herſelf, and he writ in *Spaniſh*, as follows: 'For Heaven's ſake, Madam, 'declare where I am; how I came here, 'and to whom I find myſelf ſo greatly in-'debted!' She took the Paper out of his Hand, and writ underneath in *Engliſh*, 'Sir, You was brought here deſ-'perately wounded, are now in a fair way 'of Recovery; make yourſelf eaſy, for

'you

'you are in the Houſe of a Friend and 'Countrywoman, for a few Days; deſire 'to know no more.' He paid his Acknowledgements, by an Inclination of his Head towards her: She gave him ſome comfortable Things, and retired, making a Motion to compoſe himſelf to Sleep.

When ſhe came down Stairs, ſhe greatly rejoiced the Serjeant, with informing him, that ſhe verily believed her Patient was paſt all Danger, and had perfectly recovered his Memory and Underſtanding; therefore did not think it proper he ſhould appear any more at preſent in the Chamber, altho' he had conſtantly attended him, for if he ſhould find him out, under the Diſguiſe of a *Spaniſh* Dreſs and Livery, it might occaſion ſuch a Surpriſe and Emotion, as ſhould in Prudence be avoided.

From this Time a daily Amendment was viſible: Two Days afterwards, his Faculty of Speech was reſtored, and he was greatly pleaſed to hear himſelf talk in a low Voice; for ſo ſtrict a Silence

was

was obſerved in his Room, no articulate Sound had invaded his Ears, ſince his coming thither. His kind Patroneſs coming to viſit him as uſual in the Morning, felt his Pulſe, and ſoftly whiſpered, Captain *Richmore*, If ſpeaking low will not be painful or diſagreeable to you, I ſhall be glad to hear from your own Mouth, how you find yourſelf To-day; for I flatter myſelf you are much mended within theſe laſt twenty-four Hours.

He replied, So infinitely am I obliged to you for your Goodneſs, that I deſpair of ever—Hold, ſaid ſhe, I did not deſire to hear you ſpeak, to make Acknowledgements; if you proceed, I muſt inſtantly retire. What I want chiefly to know now, is, whether your Stomach can bear your eating Part of a young boiled Chicken, which is preparing below. He conſented to its being brought up, and for the firſt Time, made a tolerable Meal.

As Captain *Richmore* had been extremely anxious ever ſince the Recovery

of

of his Senſes, to know the Reſult of the late Battle, which he knew muſt inevitably have been fought the Day he received his Wound, he took this Opportunity, eagerly to enquire of the Fate of each Army. The Widow thought proper to conceal the total Defeat of the *Engliſh*, which had really happened; and ſaid, ſhe had heard in general their Countrymen had rather the worſt, and were retired towards the Frontiers of *Portugal*, but did not believe there was any great Matter in it, ſince the other Army was gone into Quarters of Refreſhment, in this, and ſeveral other adjacent Provinces.

Though this Account was diſpleaſing, he had no Notion of the worſt.—She took Leave, with a Deſire he would try to take a little Sleep, and in the Evening ſhe would come and chat an Hour or two with him; taking Notice that talking too much at preſent might fatigue, and be prejudicial to him. She performed her Promiſe, and at his Requeſt entertained

tertained him with the following ſhort Sketch of her Life.

CHAP. XXV.

'I Was born,' ſaid ſhe, 'in the North of 'England, of reputable, though not of 'rich Parents. My Father was a Cler-'gyman, and my Mother the Daughter 'of a Gentleman who had poſſeſſed a 'good Eſtate, but whoſe Extravagancies 'had put it out of his Power to do any 'Thing for his Son-in-law. However, 'the ſmall Living he enjoyed, together 'with the Profits of a Free-ſchool, of 'which he was made Maſter ſoon after 'his Marriage, enabled them to live in 'a creditable Manner.—My Siſter and 'myſelf, were all their Family. The 'Loſs of our Mother was a general Af-'fliction to us; but my Father was incon-'ſolable, and never got the better of his 'Grief, dying about five Months after 'her of a broken Heart.

'At his Deceaſe, my eldeſt Siſter, who 'was two Years older than I, had juſt

'entered

'entered her fourteenth Year. — After 'paying ſome Debts, Doctors Bills, Bu-'rial, Mourning, &c. little remained for 'us. My Father had two Siſters, one 'a Widow, in good Circumſtances, who 'lived near us, and who came to our 'Houſe upon my Father's Death, and 'took us both home with her, deſigning 'to bring up my Siſter under her own 'Care, having no Children of her own. 'The other, who was a Maiden, and 'had continued in the Service of the 'Royal Family many Years, and was, 'at that Time, chief Dreſſer to Queen 'Catherine *, ſent for me to London, but 'on finding I was quite a raw Country 'Girl, ſhe thought fit to keep me three 'Years at a genteel Boarding-School, 'before ſhe ſhewed me to the Queen. 'The firſt Time I was introduced, her 'Majeſty was pleaſed to ſay ſome oblig-'ing Things in my Favour, and told my 'Aunt, ſhe would have me remain at 'Court under her. I need not tell you 'how much the Vanity of one of my

* Conſort to *Charles* II.

'Age

'Age was flattered by ſuch Commenda-
'tions, from a crowned Head, nor how
'great my Joy and Expectations were
'on that Occaſion, ſince you will readily
'conceive they were not little.

'But my Aunt, who was a prudent
'and diſcreet Woman, ſoon took my Va-
'nity down, by keeping me conſtantly
'buſied, either at Work in her Room;
'or in other Employments, properly be-
'longing to a Chamber-Maid; ſeldom
'admitting me to attend in the Queen's
'Apartment. Which her Majeſty no-
'ticing, ſaid, in my Hearing, Pray, *Anne*;
'(the Name ſhe always called her by)
'let your Neice every Day attend my
'Dreſſing, for I love to ſee how handily
'ſhe performs whatever ſhe does.

'It is impoſſible to expreſs what I felt
'at that Minute: But to dwell no longer
'on theſe Trifles, I became a Favourite;
'and ſucceeded my Aunt at her Death;
'which happened about eight Years af-
'ter my coming to Court, ſoon after
'which, the Death of his Majeſty hap-
'pened.

'On

'On this melancholy Event, the 'Queen having no Iſſue, came to a 'Reſolution of returning to *Portugal*; 'which ſhe did, on the Parliament's ſet-'tling her Dowry; and I had the Ho-'nour of ſtill attending, and continuing 'in her Service and Favour. About 'three Years before her Deceaſe, ſhe had 'the Misfortune of being afflicted with 'a ſore Breaſt, which the Phyſicians 'feared would turn to a Cancer. Mr. '*Cordoſa*, a Surgeon of *Seville*, was ſent 'for, at the Recommendation of the 'Dutcheſs of *Braganza*, he having en-'tirely cured her of the ſame Diſorder, 'although the greateſt of the *Portugueſe* 'Surgeons had done her no good. On 'his Arrival at *Liſbon*, an Apartment 'was aſſigned him in the Queen's Pa-'lace, where it was my Duty conſtantly 'to attend her Majeſty, when he was 'admitted into her Chamber, to ſupply 'ſuch Neceſſaries as might be wanted.

'It was full three Months before the 'Cure was compleated; during which 'Time he dined and ſupped at the ſame

'Table

'Table with me. I imagined, a great 'while, that his extreme Civilities pro-'ceeded only from his being a courteous 'well-bred Man; till he one Day, when 'I was retired from the Queen into my 'Room, ſent his Compliments by my 'Maid, and deſired the Favour of 'ſpending half an Hour alone with me, 'to diſcourſe on an Affair of Conſe-'quence. He was readily admitted, I 'knowing nothing of his Deſign.

'Being ſeated, he, in a very gentle-'man-like Manner, made a Declaration 'of his Love; informing me at the ſame 'time, that both her Majeſty and the 'Dutcheſs were acquainted with his ho-'nourable Intentions, and had kindly 'promiſed to become Advocates in his 'Favour. He obſerving the Confuſion 'he had thrown me into, modeſtly re-'tired; but begged I would, the next 'Evening, give him an Opportunity of 'waiting on me again.

'I do not know what Anſwer I gave; 'or, indeed, whether any. In the Morn-'ing the Dutcheſs entered the Queen's

'Chamber,

'Chamber, while I was dreſſing her M
'jeſty, and ſaid, (in her merry, f
'Manner) So, Madam, I wiſh you j
'of the Conqueſt you have made—Se
'nor *Cordoſa* is the moſt worthy, as w
'as the moſt ingenious Man of his P
'feſſion. I have known him ma
'Years, and can aſſure you, that
'Merit and Induſtry have greatly co
'tributed to make him Maſter of a co
'ſiderable Fortune. What though he
'turned of Fifty, and has remained
'Batchelor hitherto, it was becauſe
'never liked a Woman well enough t
'fore to make her his Wife.

'Then applying to the Queen, ſai
'Madam, don't you think Seignor *Co*
'*doſa* will make a good Huſband, and
'an advantageous Match for Miſs *Mol*
'Indeed, I think ſo, anſwered the Quee
'for I have ſuch a Regard for her,
'ſhall be glad to ſee her well marrie
'and ſettled. Conſider, Child, I no
'grow old, and at my Death I ſha
'not be able to provide for my old faith
'ful Servants as I would, had I more

'm

'my Power: Beſides, remember, you 'are not now the Girl you were, when 'you came to me near Twenty Years 'ago.

'I bluſhed, and left the Room as ſoon 'as I could—Mr. *Cordoſa* viſited me in 'the Evening—His Propoſals were ſo 'juſt and honourable, and his addreſs ſo 'open and ſincere, that although I had 'almoſt determined never to alter my 'Condition, yet in two Months after-'wards we were married in the Palace, 'by the domeſtic Chaplain. The Queen 'and Dutcheſs honoured our Nuptials 'with their Preſence. Her Majeſty, 'ſoon after, being perfectly reſtored to 'her Health, Mr. *Cordoſa* prepared for 'returning home, and in leſs than ſix 'Weeks we took Leave of the Court. 'My generous Miſtreſs made me a Pre-'ſent of a thouſand Moidores, and my 'Huſband and I left *Liſbon*, well pleaſed 'with the Civilities and Gratifications 'we had received there.

'On our Arrival at *Seville*, my Re-'ception among his Relations was, out-

'wardly,

'wardly, reſpectful, and full of Cere-
'mony; yet I could eaſily perceive, his
'Marriage diſguſted them all, as it de-
'prived them of the pleaſing Expectation
'of having his Wealth divided among
'them at his Death. I had two Sons, and
'a Daughter born in that City; but Hea-
'ven thought fit to deprive me of the
'former, very young. We continued
'there Nine Years in the utmoſt Har-
'mony, he making the beſt, and moſt
'indulgent Huſband living.

'His Family, which had formerly en-
'joyed an opulent Eſtate, but were now
'fallen to Decay, were, originally, of
'this Province. A Gentleman from
'hence, informed him of this Houſe and
'Eſtate being on Sale; and as he had
'before ſome Thoughts of leaving off
'Buſineſs, he intimated, if it was agree-
'able to my Inclination, he ſhould be
'glad to purchaſe a *Villa* and Lands
'which had many Years been poſſeſſed
'by his Anceſtors, and ſpend the Re-
'mainder of his Days in ſo ſweet a Re-
'tirement, and pleaſant Retreat.

'I con-

'I conſented; and he having ſoon 'made the Purchaſe, we removed hi-'ther. Here we enjoyed an uninterrupt-'ed State of Health and Tranquility, 'above ten Years; at the End of which, 'it pleaſed God to call him from me. It 'is now almoſt ſix Years ſince his De-'ceaſe, ever ſince which, my Inclinati-'ons have conſtantly prompted me to 'return to my native Country, with my 'Daughter, who is a Proteſtant as well 'as myſelf. I ſhall conclude, with let-'ting you know, I depend much on 'your Advice and Aſſiſtance to conduct 'me prudently through my Deſign of 'leaving this Kingdom, and I flatter 'myſelf I ſhall not want either. I have 'but one Favour more to aſk, which is, 'Sir, that thoſe Acknowledgments your 'Eyes have often paid me, may never 'proceed from your Lips; as no other 'Part of your Converſation, I am per-'ſuaded, can be ſo diſagreeable to me.'

Though the Captain ſecretly admired her generous Diſpoſition, yet he lamented his Tongue's being tied up from ex-

preſſing the grateful Sentiments of his Heart. Every Day brought an Increaſe of Strength—He ſat up many Hours together, and his wound was almoſt healed up, when ſhe related to him the Story of the Robbers breaking into her Houſe, with all the Particulars; tho' ſhe concealed Serjeant *Webb's* being the Servant who preſerved all their Lives.

As ſhe now daily favoured him with her Company, he acquainted her with his Family, Love to *Eleanora*, and almoſt every Adventure of his Life. On mentioning his Aunt, the Lady *Richmore*, with great Affection, and her deplorable Condition and unhappy Occaſion thereof, ſhe interrupted him, ſaying, if Heaven permitted her to ſee her Country again, ſhe did not doubt, but with its Bleſſing, of reſtoring her Memory and Senſes by a Specific prepared by her late Huſband, which had never failed in ſimilar Caſes—The Thought that he might happily be inſtrumental in preſerving that generous, friendly, and

beloved

beloved Relation, gave him inexpreſſible Pleaſure.

Madam *Cordoſa*, before this, let him know, ſhe was well aſſured, the Serjeant ſhe had heard him talk of, with ſo much Reſpect, and that he believed killed, was ſtill alive and well, and that ſhe had found Means of ſending for him to her Houſe, and had Reaſon to believe, he would be with them in two or three Days. Though he was exceedingly glad to hear this News, he could not imagine from whence ſhe had her Information, and waited with a good deal of Impatience for the Confirmation: However, the next Evening the Serjeant was introduced in his *Spaniſh* Dreſs, which made the Captain ſmile, who began to have ſome Remembrance of his having ſeen him two or three Times in his Room upon his firſt Recovery.

On Madam *Cordoſa*'s retiring, he learnt form the Serjeant every thing ſubſequent to his being wounded, and the unfortunate Event of the Attack at *Bribuega*. His Grief was inconſolable at this

Relation; he mourned the Loſs of his dear Friends and Countrymen, and notwithſtanding Tears came to his Aſſiſtance, he fainted away, while *Webb* ſupported him in his Arms. The Widow, brought by his Lamentations, entered the Room, and ſeverely reprimanded the poor Serjeant for diſturbing the Repoſe of his Mind, which ſhe ſuppoſed he had done, by a Recital of ſuch Things which were now remedileſs; and then endeavoured to aſſuage the Captain's Grief, by reaſonable Arguments, prevailing with him to drink off a Cordial, and going immediately into Bed. The Cordial which ſhe gave him, had in it a compoſing Quality, ſo that he ſlept the whole Night without waking, which, otherwiſe, would have been ſpent in the greateſt Anxiety of Mind.

The following Day, *Webb* informed him, that he learnt in the Town, where he had been in the Morning, that Major-general *Fitzgerald*'s Regiment, to which his Friend, Captain *Fitzgerald*, belonged, were quartered in a Town not above

above ſeven Leagues from them. Upon this Intelligence, the Captain ordered him to bring Pen, Ink and Paper, and prepare a Horſe, while he wrote a Letter, for he was reſolved he ſhould wait on him immediately.

The Purport of his Letter was little more than acquainting him where he was, how kindly he had been entertained, and how much he longed to ſee him, that he might once more become his Priſoner. The Serjeant ſet out in leſs than an Hour, and got to his Journey's End before dark. He waited at Captain *Fitzgerald*'s Quarters till near Twelve, before he came in. When he preſented the Letter, Captain *Fitzgerald* aſked him in *Spaniſh*, from whom he brought it? judging, by his Garb and Livery, he was a *Spaniſh* Lackey. The other replying in *Engliſh*, from Captain *Richmore*; I fear you miſtake, my Friend, ſaid he, for I have made all poſſible Enquiry after him, ſince the Battle, without hearing the leaſt Account of him, either among the Slain, Priſoners, or thoſe who

eſcaped, which made me conclude he was that gallant Officer who fell at a Mill near the Field of Battle; and which Conjecture, two Days ago, was confirmed to me by Major *Travanion*, a Friend and Brother Officer of his.

It is true, Sir, anſwered *Webb*, he commanded a ſmall Party there, and received a deſperate Wound; but is now almoſt recovered to a Miracle. I have the Honour to be his Serjeant, and was preſent at the Action.—When you ſee Captain *Richmore*, Sir, you will be acquainted why it is neceſſary I ſhould appear in the Garb of a *Spaniſh* Servant.

The Captain deſired he would ſit down, while he read his Letter; and then over a Bottle, ſhould think himſelf obliged to him for a particular Relation of what happened at the Mill. The Serjeant not only acquainted him with every Circumſtance thereof, but added, the benevolent Widow's Charity and Generoſity. The Captain declared his Satisfaction in the Account he had given, wiſhed him a good Night, and ordered him

to

to be ready early in the Morning to conduct him to his Friend.

They reached Madam *Cordoſa*'s Houſe the next Morning almoſt as ſoon as *Richmore* got out of Bed. *Fitzgerald*, on entering his Room, haſtily catched him in his Arms, crying out, It is thus I make my Friend my Priſoner! Three Days ago, I met your Friend Major *Travanion*, from whom I learnt, with a Countenance full of Concern, of your being killed at the Head of a ſmall Party, ſent out the Morning of the Action. He was then perfectly well, and quite recovered of the Wounds he received that Day.

This News gave Captain *Richmore* ſuch freſh Spirits, that he eagerly enquired where the Major was? And was told he was gone to *Madrid*, with other Officers, to ſolicit Paſſports to return home on their Parole, which he was perſuaded would ſoon be granted. He then let Captain *Fitzgerald* know, how ardently he wiſhed to be in *England*, on many Occaſions, and how kind his pro-

curing a Paſſport for him and his Serjeant would be. Never fear, ſaid he, I'll try whether my Uncle, who is commanding Officer in this Province, will not grant you one himſelf.

On receiving a Meſſage from Madam *Cordoſa* and her Daughter, deſiring their Company to Breakfaſt, *Richmore* immediately introduced the Captain to them, by whom he was received with great Civility and Politeneſs. He could not help complimenting the Widow, and making many Encomiums on her Goodneſs and Humanity. *Richmore* obſerving that his Compliments gave her Pain, did all in his Power to put an End to them; and, when the Ladies were retired, gave him a Hint, that nothing created ſo much Uneaſineſs in the Widow's benevolent Diſpoſition, as hearing it ſpoke of by any Body. Captain *Fitzgerald* thanked him, and ſaid, the Caution given him, ſhould prevent his offending a ſecond Time.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVI.

WHEN they were withdrawn to Captain *Richmore*'s Apartment, Don't you wonder, ſaid *Fitzgerald* to him, I have not yet enquired how miraculouſly you eſcaped the Fate your Friends all feared you had ſuffered?—Your honeſt Serjeant related the whole to me laſt Night, which, I muſt confeſs to be very extraordinary, but ſhall, with your Leave, inform you of a Story, in itſelf ſo uncommon, that I ſcarce expect it ſhould obtain Credit.

You muſt know then, about ſeven Months ago, we had Winter Quarters in a little Village that lay between *Caſtile* and *Valencia*, where our Forragers were often diſturbed by Parties of Miquelets, who ranged about the Country, in queſt of Plunder. This obliged the commanding Officer conſtantly to ſend out a Captain's Guard to protect them.

It happened, on my Duty, a Party of them endeavoured to ſurpriſe us, but they miſcarried, and were beaten off. In this Skirmiſh, your old Acquaintance *Patrick Burne*, was mortally wounded. I had him brought to Quarters, put to Bed, and remained in the Room while the Surgeon dreſſed him, who told me he could not live four Hours. Theſe Words, tho' ſpoken in a Whiſper, were, I believe, overheard by *Burne*, for he immediately beckoned me with his Finger, to approach his Bedſide. On my doing ſo, he deſired the Favour of diſcloſing ſomething of Conſequence to me alone. I then ordered all preſent to leave the Chamber, and having ſhut the Door at his Requeſt, he then proceeded as follows:

Dear Captain, you may remember in our March through *Valencia*, ſome Time ago, we lay one Night at a pleaſant Village. The Day had been exceeding hot, and juſt before dark, I took a Pitcher in my Hand to fetch ſome Water from a cool running Brook, about a Quarter

Quarter of a Mile from the Town, and was ſinging an *Engliſh* Song by the Way. When I had filled it and was paſſing by a little Brook, I heard a feeble Voice call out, *Engliſhman*, for God's ſake beſtow a little Water on a dying Man.

He was lying on the Ground, with his Head againſt the Root of a Tree, near the Water-ſide. I applied my Pitcher to his Mouth, and obſerved he was in a wretched, ragged Condition. I would have given him ſome Ammunition-bread I had in my Pocket, but he refuſed it, ſaying, Young Man, I have eaten, and now, I believe, drank my laſt, and am in the Agonies of Death; but for your Kindneſs, in theſe my laſt Moments, I freely beſtow on you all I have in the World.

In the Flannel Waiſtcoat, next my Body, you will find ſome Diamonds quilted, amounting in Value to more than fifty Thouſand Pounds. There is not a great Deal of Money in my Purſe; however take it from my left

Side Breeches Pocket. I am a *Jew*, and formerly reſided many Years in *England*, and am but lately returned from the *Spaniſh Weſt-Indies*, in *America*. All I requeſt of you in Return is, that you would dig a Hole, and bury me, to prevent the Indecency and ill Uſage my Corpſe may be expoſed to in this Country.

Theſe were his Words; a deep Groan ſucceeded, in which he breathed his laſt. I ſtripped him of the Waiſtcoat, and put it on, and have worn it ever ſince, till it was taken off this Hour to come at my Wound. It is the ſame that now lies on the Bed by me. In his Purſe, I found eight Piſtoles, and ſome Silver. You cannot forget how often I got drunk in the latter Part of the March, nor how angry I have made you ſeveral Times on that Account. It was owing to this Money, which I continued to ſpend on my Comrades as long as it laſted. I ſhould have told you before, that I fulfilled the dead Man's Deſire, by immediately

ly fetching a Spade from the Village, and burying him according to my Promiſe.

This, Sir, as I hope to be forgiven of my Sins in the next World, where I find I am going, is every Word true: So that you ſee, I came honeſtly by this great Treaſure. Take the Waiſtcoat along with you, and you will be in Poſſeſſion of all.——I leave the whole between you and Captain *Richmore*, in conſideration of the Sufferings and Misfortunes he underwent, by my Roguery and Villany.——But as you know it, I ſhall ſay no more, only entreat you, by all you eſteem and value, to find him out as ſoon as poſſible, and deliver one Half of the Diamonds to him.

After I had ſolemnly aſſured him I would, he deſired a Prieſt might be ſent him, and that I would ſee him in the Morning, if he lived ſo long. I promiſed ſo to do, and diſpatched our regimental Chaplain away inſtantly; however, he did not ſurvive my leaving him above four or five Hours.

The

The Waiſtcoat I tied up in my Handkerchief, and carried it to my Quarters, and you may eaſily conceive the Effluvias that iſſued from thence were not the moſt odoriferous: Beſides, it ſeemed to contain ſome diſagreeable Inhabitants. Thus circumſtanced, I was at a Loſs where to depoſit it, as I could not put it among my Cloaths, for the afore-mentioned Reaſons: At length, I concluded to have a ſmall Box made, large enough to contain that, and a Quantity of whole Pepper, ſufficient to cover it on every Side, believing thereby the ill Smell would be taken off, and the Vermin deſtroyed. I ſhall therefore now open the Box, in your Preſence, having cauſed it to be brought in my Cloak Bag, and have ordered my Servant to carry it into your Room for that Purpoſe. Come, continued he, let us go thither, that I may produce authentic Proofs of what I have aſſerted.

Captain *Richmore* ſat quite mute and amazed. He could hardly perſuade himſelf he was awake, or that his Ears had

had not deceived him. In this Surpriſe he was led to the Chamber, when *Fitzgerald* proceeded to the opening of the Box, and pulling out the Waiſtcoat, with his Penknife unripped one of the Squares of Quilting, and took out a Brilliant of great Value; declaring that ſuch another he had before taken from thence, to be ſatisfied whether they were real Diamonds or Counterfeits only. That he had ſhewed the Stone to a Jeweller of *Madrid*, who worked for the Court, as he accidentally lay a Night in the Town where he was quartered, in his Way to that City, and who, without Heſitation, offered him three Hundred and fifty Piſtoles for it, if he thought fit to diſpoſe thereof; and without waiting for an Anſwer, told him he would give four Hundred, which was the full Value; aſſuring him, no Perſon in *Spain* could advance on the Price he had ſet, let him ſhew it to as many as he pleaſed; nor would he have given ſo much, had he not lately received Orders from his Majeſty to make

up

up a Ring of a ſtated Price, to make a Preſent of. That believing he dealt ingenuouſly, he made no Difficulty of letting him have it; the Money being paid, and returned to him in ten Days, according to Agreement. The Moiety of which, he told *Richmore*, he was intitled to, and ſhould receive, having brought the ſame along with him for that Purpoſe.

Richmore, tho' not quite recovered from the Amazement he was under, no longer could doubt of the Reality of what he had heard and ſeen. He embraced his Friend, and replied, It is yours, *Fitzgerald*, to ſtand the firſt of Mankind in Honour, Truth, and Fidelity. No Compliments, returned he, it is ſufficient Captain *Richmore* does not think me a diſhoneſt Man. —— But no more of this, let us conſider on the Means of dividing our Legacy, and coming to an Agreement, which is this, that if one ſhould arrive ſafe at home with his Jewels (for I intend to leave the *Spaniſh* Service, as ſoon as I can quit it

with

with Honour, and return home as well as you) and the other is robbed, or by any Way ſhould be deprived of his, before he gets to his Journey's End, the fortunate Perſon ſhall again divide, whatſoever ſhall be ſaved, between them.

This Propoſal was readily aſſented to by *Richmore*, as was the Method Captain *Fitzgerald* afterwards projected of rendering to each an equal Share, by obtaining an equal Balance in a Pair of Scales, into which the Diamonds ſhould be promiſcuouſly put. For by that Means he apprehended neither the one or the other could be prejudiced by the Diviſion, altho' they were no Judges of the Value of any particular Stone. This Method was immediately put in Execution, tho' not till they had acquainted Madam *Cordoſa* with this extraordinary Event.

She admired Captain *Fitzgerald*'s honourable Behaviour, more than the glittering Gems which preſented themſelves to her View; none of which ſhe could be prevailed on to accept, tho' each, much

much againſt her Inclination, preſented her Daughter with one.

Richmore intimated he highly approved of the Jew's manner of concealing his Treaſure, and therefore, for their joint Security, propoſed the having them quilted up as before, in two Waiſtcoats. The Widow and Miſs kindly offered to become their Work-women, and performed it very dexterouſly. Captain *Fitzgerald* ſpent the Night very agreeably with them, and returned to his Quarters the next Evening; renewing his Promiſe at parting, that he would uſe his beſt Intereſt and Endeavours to procure the Paſſports, and that let what would happen, he ſhould ſee him again in three or four Days; for both he and his kind Hoſteſs, could perceive his extreme Impatience to be gone, now he was in a Condition to travel.

In the mean time Madam *Cordoſa* had many Converſations with *Richmore* on the Subject of her retiring from *Spain*, and Diſpoſal of her Eſtate and Effects in that Kingdom. Among other Things,

Things, ſhe told him of her having two Thouſand Moidores at Intereſt, and well ſecured at *Liſbon*; one half of which, was the Preſent of her late Royal Miſtreſs, the other part of the Money ſhe had ſaved in her Service. Neither of which Sums, ſhe ſaid, Mr. *Cordoſa* would ever ſuffer to be called in, in his Life-time, nor had ſhe altered the Property ſince his Death; therefore, as ſhe intended to carry that Money to *England* with her, ſhe had thoughts of writing immediately thither, to acquaint the Merchants (in whoſe Hands it had ſo long remained) of her Deſign, that they might be ready to pay it three Months afterwards, which was as ſoon as ſhe could poſſibly expect to ſettle her Affairs, and be prepared to embark for *England*. Therefore, as ſhe knew the preſſing Motives that called him away, ſhe ſtrenuouſly inſiſted he ſhould depart with the utmoſt Expedition, and hoped he would recommend her to the Friendſhip and Aſſiſtance of his generous Friend.

Not-

Notwithſtanding his longing Deſire and Impatience to ſee his dear *Eleanora*, Relations, and Friends, to none of whom he had any Opportunity of writing for the laſt four Months, yet he gratefully offered to wait her Time, both to aſſiſt in her Affairs, and accompany them in their Voyage; deſiring only, that ſhe would incloſe ſome Letters of his to her Correſpondent at *Liſbon*, with Directions to forward them immediately.

She replied, with more Warmth than he had ever obſerved before, that ſhe was highly obliged to him for his laſt Compliment, but at the ſame Inſtant, muſt let him know, how greatly he miſtook her Diſpoſition, even to imagine ſhe could enjoy a Moment's Eaſe, while ſhe was the Cauſe of making two worthy Perſons miſerable, by detaining a long abſent, faithful Lover, from ſo virtuous and deſerving a young Lady as *Eleanora* was. No, Captain *Richmore*, added ſhe, believe me I would not be guilty of ſuch Inhumanity, was my Intereſt ever ſo deeply

deeply concerned, therefore think no more of waiting for me; your generous Friend's Aſſiſtance will anſwer every Intention of your ſtaying: Prepare then to depart, I beſeech you, ſince you know my Reſolution; and may propitious Heaven grant you a ſafe Paſſage and happy Meeting, that you may be enabled to diſpel and wipe away thoſe affectionate Tears, I am ſatisfied are now ſhedding for you.

He was quite at a Loſs how to behave in this Juncture, being almoſt diſtracted between the Paſſions of Love and Gratitude; the former forcibly ſoliciting every ſoft and tender Part of his Soul, the latter applying itſelf to his Honour, and each manly Virtue. And will you at laſt be that Ingrate, ſaid he, (ſilently expoſtulating with himſelf) to leave a Lady, whoſe Goodneſs and Charity ſaved your Life, expoſed to a Million of Accidents, under her preſent perplexing Circumſtances, when your continuing with her a little Time, may poſſibly prevent many of them? And

can

can you ungratefully fly, as ſoon as you are in a Condition to be ſerviceable?

Here Captain *Fitzgerald* entered, with the Paſſports in his Hand, before he could frame an Anſwer, or determine what to do. Madam *Cordoſa* got the ſtart of him, and repeated the late Converſation, which pre-engaged his Opinion. *Richmore* was forced to ſubmit; but what greatly contributed to his ſo doing was, thoſe ſolemn Aſſurances the generous *Fitzgerald* made him, that in his Abſence, his Attention to her Family's Intereſt ſhould be indefatigable; that he would ſupport it with his own, nay, with his Life and Fortune, if neceſſary. This Declaration from a Man of ſtrict Honour, made him eaſy, and was very agreeable to the Widow and her Daughter, who in the moſt genteel manner returned ſuitable Acknowledgments.

Captain *Fitzgerald*, in order to put an End to this Converſation, invited them all into the Court-Yard to view ſome Horſes he had brought with him, one of which

which was a beautiful black Stone-horſe, with rich Furniture. He clapped his Hand on his Neck, ſaying, Honeſt Blacky, I ſhall truſt you to carry my Friend to *Liſbon*. In the Holſters were a Pair of double-barrel'd Piſtols, handſomely mounted with Silver: Thoſe, ſaid he, with the Furniture, muſt go to *England* with you. Then turning to another ſtrong and well-accoutred Horſe, held by a *Spaniſh* Trooper, he told *Webb* it was for him; recommending the Trooper to their Notice, as an honeſt brave Fellow, whom he had choſen to attend and conduct them on their Journey.

Theſe Preparations being ſo ſuddenly made, without Captain *Richmore*'s Knowledge, it was immediately ſettled, he ſhould ſet out in the Morning. Their Parting was truly affectionate; *Richmore* betraying a manly Weakneſs, in his laſt Salute.——The Widow alſo ſhed Tears, and promiſed to expedite her Affairs with all poſſible Diligence, in order to follow him to *England*, where

ſhe longed to be in Safety, and hoped to ſee him in leſs than four Months.

Captain *Fitzgerald* accompanied his Friend twenty Miles, where they dined; after which he took an endearing Farewell, and aſſured him he would pay him a Viſit in his Way to *Ireland*. Captain *Richmore* then began his Journey with *Webb* and the Trooper, who were armed regimentally, and in ſix Days, they arrived at *Liſbon*, embarking the ſame Evening on board the Packet, *Richmore* having heard of the Deceaſe of his good Friend Captain *Pedro*.

CHAP. XXVII.

THEY ſailed in the Morning with a fair Wind, and Captain *Richmore* had the Pleaſure of meeting with ſeveral Officers of his Acquaintance, as Fellow-paſſengers, who declared their Satisfaction in ſeeing him in the Land of the Living, it having, they ſaid, been confidently reported and believed, that he

he fell in the Action at the Mill. There were likewise many wounded and disabled Soldiers on board; one of whom was on the Detachment at the Mill with him. He expressed great Astonishment and Joy at seeing him and *Webb* alive, both of whom he left bleeding, he said, and to all Appearance dead, when he was carried away Prisoner.

Nothing remarkable happened in their Voyage, till they made the Island of *Scilly*. When soon after they were chaced by a *French* Privateer of twenty Guns. As the Packet had sixteen, and was well manned, they lay by ready to engage. The Privateer soon ranged along-side of them, but meeting with a warm Reception, and seeing so many Officers on board, she soon thought fit to sheer off. In this short Action, Captain *Richmore* was so unfortunate as to receive a Musket-ball, in the fleshy Part of his right Arm, which was extracted by the Surgeon. Soon after, the Wind came about to the Eastward, and blew very hard, which prevented their entering

the Channel. They beat about for the Space of ten Days, and on the eleventh a violent Storm at Eaſt drove them away from the Land, by the Mariners Account, almoſt a Hundred Leagues. The Captain of the Packet had once Thoughts of returning to *Liſbon*, but the Wind coming about weſterly, with a fine moderate Gale, he purſued his Courſe, and in three Days got Sight of the Land's End of *England*.

In the Grey of the Morning, they fell in with the ſame Privateer they had before engaged, in Company with another Veſſel of equal Force, which was judged to be her Conſort. They both gave Chace, and they had now nothing to depend on but their Heels; but in crowding Sail to eſcape, unfortunately, their Main Top-maſt came by the Board. The ſtrange ſhip was headmoſt, and came up with them apace: They then made ready to engage, tho' with little Hopes of Succeſs. The Packet was ſlung, and prepared to be thrown over board, when the headmoſt ſhip fired a Gun to bring them

them to, under *Engliſh* Colours. Their Hearts all leaped with Joy, eſpecially when the Commander of the Packet-Boat told them, he knew her to be one of our Cruizers, whom he ſuppoſed had taken the Privateer, and was now carrying her to *Plymouth*. It proved as he conjectured; they put themſelves under his Convoy, and anchored in *Falmouth* Harbour the next Day. At Landing, *Richmore*'s Arm continued in great Pain; however, he ſet out in a Coach with three of his Brother Officers for *London*.

On the Third Day of their Journey, an Accident happened which had like to have proved fatal. They ſtopped at an Inn on the Road to dine; a Chaiſe and Pair, with a Gentleman and Lady, attended by a Servant, alighted almoſt at the ſame Time. A young Subaltern Officer in the Company of *Richmore*, Son to a Man of Fortune, who had been ſent abroad by his Father, to prevent his Marriage with a young Woman, Daughter to a Tradeſman in *London*, but to whom he had before been

privately married, ſeeing the young Lady paſſing into a Room, abruptly laid hold of her Arm, and claimed her for his Wife, and in the Fright and Confuſion, the Lady fell into a Fit and fainted away. The Gentleman who was with her, tho' greatly ſurpriſed, behaved in a polite manner, and calmly applied himſelf to the Officers (the other being retired with ſome Women that carried the Lady into a Chamber) ſaying, he did not expect ſuch Treatment from Gentlemen of their Cloth; and could not believe any of them would juſtify an injurious Action, done on purpoſe to abuſe and affront him, being perſuaded the Perſon pretending to be the Lady's Huſband, was an abſolute Stranger to her. That he had the Honour of her Acquaintance from their Infancy; that he was now conducting her to the Houſe of an Uncle of hers, where ſhe had been brought up from a Child. That they had long conceived a reciprocal Paſſion for each other; and that this very Morning, ſhe had made him happy by a Mar-

riage

riage unknown to her Father, who had always favoured his Addreſſes, till a late Quarrel between him and his Guardian. He made no Scruple of confeſſing ſhe was an Heireſs, but that her Fortune was not ſuperior to his own.

The young Officer at this Inſtant returned, and being enraged with Jealouſy and Reſentment, immediately drew his Sword; calling out, Villain, defend your Life againſt an abuſed Huſband, for nothing but your Blood can atone for my Diſhonour. The Gentleman put himſelf on his Guard, and attacked with equal Paſſion and Vigour. It was impoſſible to prevent ſeveral Paſſes they made at each other, as they fought with ſo much Violence and Fury; but each of them receiving a Wound in the Fray, their Weapons were beat down, and they were immediately diſarmed. The Company then forced the Officer into the Houſe; and aſſured his Antagoniſt, that this Affair muſt have happened through ſome Miſtake, and did not doubt of ſoon clearing up the Point, and that

he might depend on the moſt honourable and gentleman-like Uſage if he would, without Paſſion, condeſcend to come in along with them.

He conſented, and the young Lady being recovered, and hearing of his being wounded, ruſhed into the Room in the greateſt Agony, tenderly embraced him, and enquired which was the Ruffian that inhumanly had done the Injury, and had the Confidence to ſay, ſhe was his Wife? The Officer replied, It is I, Madam, am the injured, and you the moſt falſe, abandoned, and ungrateful of your Sex. Did I not, for your Sake, run the Hazard of being diſinherited, undone, and for ever diſobliging an indulgent Father, by marrying you?

Good Heavens, cried ſhe, what do I hear! Gentlemen, I ſolemnly proteſt, to my Knowledge, I never ſaw this Perſon in my Life before, nor can I comprehend his Meaning or Deſign.

He upbraided her, with taking Notice that hers was evident, For I plainly perceive, continued he, you are determined,

mined, at all Events, to brazen it out, knowing I have not ſufficient Witneſs here to convict you; but be aſſured, Madam, I will not part with you ſo—Pray, will you deny too, that your Maiden Name was *Anne Smith?* No, I will not ſaid ſhe, nor do I ſee any Reaſon why I ſhould that, or any thing elſe.

He applied to the Company, if this was not enough to convince them of her Falſhood, and his Misfortune, in being joined to ſuch a faithleſs Woman? This Incident a little ſtaggered them all; the wounded Gentleman required the Officer to declare, of what Country his Wife was, where ſhe lived, and at what Place he was married? He received for Anſwer, ſhe was a Tradeſman's Daughter, near the *Royal-Exchange*, in *London*; and that he had been unhappily married in that City near two Years before.

Now, Gentlemen, reſumed the other, I believe I ſhall put this Matter beyond Diſpute; for, on my Honour, the Lady's Father is a Country Gentleman, who has lived his whole Life upon his

own Eſtate in *Somerſetſhire*. It is true, her Name was *Anne Smith* till this Day; and the Captain, I know not how, claiming her by that Name, may have induced ſome of the Company to imagine his Pretenſions are not groundleſs; but *Smith* is a common Name, and there may be Ten Thouſand of it in *England*: Beſides, ſaid he, (turning to the Lady) I verily believe, my Dear, you was never in *London*. She averred ſhe never was there in her Life.

Notwithſtanding all that could be ſaid, the Officer ſtill perſiſted, declaring, although they had prevented his taking that Vengence juſtly due to a wronged and offended Huſband, he would try how far the Civil Power would aſſiſt the Juſtneſs of his Cauſe; therefore would no longer delay ſending for a Conſtable, that the guilty Perſons might be ſecured, and carried before a Magiſtrate, where he would make an Affidavit of the Truth he had aſſerted.

The Affair growing more and more ſerious, the Gentleman and Lady willingly

ingly conſented to go before a Magiſtrate, with the Company, on the Return of their Servant, who was already diſpatched to fetch a Relation of the Lady's whoſe Houſe was little more than ten Miles from thence, and where they intended to have been by that Time, had not this unaccountable Interruption happened. This Propoſal appeared ſo fair and open that it was generally approved of; and the Diſputants Honours were engaged, that no Violence or Outrage ſhould be committed, till a final Determination. A Surgeon that had been ſent for came and dreſſed their Wounds, which were neither deep nor dangerous. About an Hour after they had dined, the Gentleman's Servant returned, and his Maſter ordered him to deliver his Meſſage publicly. He did ſo; and only ſaid, that the Gentleman he was ſent for would ſoon be there. In about an Hour more, his Coach drove into the Yard. He was ſupported to their Room by two Servants, being very lame with the

Gout. He paid his Compliments, and ſeating himſelf next the Lady, enquired into the unhappy Cauſe of the Broil which had brought him thither. The whole Story was told by an indifferent Perſon in the Company; when the Officer ſaid, I dare, Sir, appeal to you and the World, whether any one in their Senſes, would challenge a Woman for his Wife he never ſaw before? Nor can you diſbelieve I am not poſitively ſure ſhe is ſo, when I declare myſelf ready to take my Oath before the Magiſtrate we are going to, that the Woman who now ſits by you, is really and truly my lawful Wife: And now I beg leave to aſk, how I ſhould be availed, or what Purpoſe it would anſwer, were it untrue? When, undoubtedly, I muſt know, a little Time will either prove me an honeſt Man, or a perjured Villain.

The Gentleman ſmiled, and replied, Captain, my general Charity induces me to believe, that your poſitively aſſerting my Neice to be your Wife, proceeds really

really from your miſtaking her for another Perſon; and not from any diſhonourable, or ungentleman-like Deſign; therefore I ſhall endeavour to convince you of your Error. In the firſt Place, I muſt inform you, I am her great Uncle; and that ſhe has conſtantly lived at my Houſe ſince ſhe was five Years old; for ſoon after her Mother died, my Nephew *Smith*, her Father, married a ſecond Wife, who did not uſe the Child kindly: I took her home, with the Conſent of her Father, and with me ſhe has remained ever ſince. Sometimes, indeed, ſhe has ſtaid ten Days, or a Fortnight at her Father's on a Viſit, but never longer at a time. She is now returning to my Houſe. In her laſt Letter ſhe informed me, her Father's Illneſs detained her longer than ſhe expected, but as he had got pretty well, ſhe had Thoughts of returning in three or four Days. There is nothing more in the Letter, except ſome Expreſſions of Love and Duty to me, my Wife and Family. Here it is, Sir, you may peruſe it, if you

pleaſe, and ſee if the Hand correſponds with any of your Lady's Writing.

The young Officer looked at it, and acknowledged it did not. The old Gentleman then proceeded. I am aſſured, ſaid he, your could not have ſeen my Neice in *London*, as ſhe never was there. I am poſitively certain. My whole Family, and, I may ſay, Neighbourhood, can teſtify theſe Truths. I have been thus explicit with you, Sir, that no further Doubt may remain with you.

I have the Honour of being in the Commiſſion of the Peace for this County, and would not have adminiſtered the raſh Oath you propoſed to take, on any Conſideration whatſoever; being aſſured, notwithſtanding your actual Belief of the Truth to which you would have ſworn, you muſt have become a perjured Man. Then added, Gentlemen, if your Time will permit, I ſhall be glad you would honour my Houſe with your Company this Night, along with the new married Couple. I can only promiſe you

good

good Beds, civil Entertainment, and a hearty Welcome.

CHAP. XXVIII.

THE Manner in which this grave and prudent Magiſtrate delivered himſelf, convinced, and affected the Company, all but the young Officer; who ſaid, that what had been alledged might be ſufficient to rectify Errors in other Caſes, but it was difficult to perſuade a Man that he did not know his own Wife, who had lived above a Year with him, and from whom he had not been parted quite ſo long; yet he was willing to put his Cauſe on this ſingle Iſſue; that if the Lady, by a Condeſcenſion no way immodeſt, could be prevailed on to ſhew him her left Breaſt, and if a dark coloured Mole did not appear juſt under the Nipple, he was content to drop all Pretenſions, and aſk a thouſand Pardons.

The

The Uncle and Huſband, conceiving there was no Indecency in the Action, requeſted the Lady ſhe would ſatisfy the Officer in that particular; to oblige whom, ſhe conſented, and no Mark of that Kind, or any other appearing, he fell on his Knees at her Feet, proteſting, he never would alter his Poſture, till he could obtain Forgiveneſs for his egregious, though innocent Miſtake, of which he was now quite ſenſible; that no other Motive, than a firm Belief, and ſtrong Prepoſſeſſion ſhe was his Wife, could have made him guilty of an Action, that turned out ſo much to his Shame and Confuſion; and that he was encouraged to hope, for the ſame Reaſons, her Huſband, whom he had wounded and abuſed, and the Gentlemen would ſeal his Pardon, for the undeſigned Trouble and Vexation his unfortunate Error had occaſioned. This, he flattered himſelf, they would the more eaſily do, on ſeriouſly conſidering, how a deceived Man, paſſionately fond, and who truly and affectionately loves, muſt neceſſarily have

have acted under the same Circumstances. He was pitied as well as forgiven; none present doubting but the Resemblance must be very great, that could cause him so long to persevere.

This embarrassing Affair being amicably concluded, the Justice took Notice, that the late Incident brought to his Memory the Observation of the venerable *Shakespear*; where he says,

——————Trifles light as Air,
Are to the Jealous, Confirmations strong
As Proofs of Holy Writ.

He then proposed pushing the Bottle about for an Hour or two, and filled a Bumper to the Bride's Health; when that, and the Bridegroom's went cheerfully round.

The Conversation now became sprightly and agreeable—The Justice entertained them with several diverting Stories, and, among others, the following extraordinary one.

It will be two and twenty Years, I believe, next Winter Assize, said he, since a labouring Man was tried at *Taunton*, for a Murther

a Murther committed on an Alderman of that Town. I continued in Court while the Trial laſted, and the Evidence produced againſt him was ſtrong, tho' circumſtantial. It was ſworn by a Servant to a neighbouring Farmer, that he and the Priſoner, the Morning the Murther was committed, were at Work in the Fields for his Maſter: As ſoon as it was light, they were removing Dung that lay by a Land Side, on his Lands; that this Evidence drove the Cart, and ſhot down the Manure on the Grounds, while the Priſoner filled the ſpare Cart (for on thoſe Occaſions, they commonly take two of them); that on his ſecond Return with his Team, he found the Priſoner had loaded the ſtanding Cart, and was looking at a bleeding Man that lay cloſe to the Dunghill; that he immediately cried out, Oh! *Tom*, what have you done? I fear you have killed the Gentleman. That the Priſoner replied, Truly, *William*, I know no more than you, how he came by his Death; for after I had filled my Cart, knowing you would

would be a good while before you came back, I laid me down and fell asleep, and awaking just now, am as much surprised as you are.

Alas, *Tom*, said the Evidence, you certainly must have killed the man, or how came you so bloody? The Prisoner answered, at first he believed the Gentleman was in a Fit, that he took him in his Arms, to set him upright, and then the Blood spouted out upon him, from two or three Wounds, which he did not see before.

The Farmer coming to look after his Men, saw them both gazing at the Deceased, who was quite warm. He deposed, the Prisoner gave him the Account he had already given to the first Evidence. That on viewing the Body, he observed the three Wounds seemed to answer to the Prongs of the Dung-fork, the Prisoner had been working with; that he took it up with an Intention of trying, and found the Points of the Fork bloody about six or seven Inches, which made it appear plain

plain to him, that the deceaſed was murthered by the Priſoner, with that very Fork; and ſaid, it belonged to him, and was now in Court, and that the Blood was ſtill to be ſeen on the Prongs of it. It was handed to the Bench, and the Judges, Jury, and whole Court having viewed it, were ſatisfied of the Truth.

The next Evidence was the Surgeon. He depoſed, being fetched by the Farmer to the deceaſed Alderman, Mr. *Oſborn*; that he found him lying on his Back, quite dead, tho' ſtill warm, very near a Dunghill. That he had three Wounds in his Breaſt, at an equal Diſtance from each other; that on his probing them, he found them all to be between ſix and ſeven Inches deep; that when he was ſhewed the Fork, and told it was the ſame the Priſoner had been at Work with, he perceived the Prongs were ſtained with freſh Blood, much about the Depth of the three ſeveral Wounds, and upon applying the Ends thereof to them, it was apparent

rent they were given by that Weapon all at one Time, and, without Diſpute, was the Occaſion of his immediate Death. Several others ſwore to the Blood on the Priſoner's Cloaths that Morning, and likewiſe to that on the Fork.

The Priſoner, in his Defence, acknowledged all that had been ſworn againſt him to be true; notwithſtanding which, he declared his Innocency of the Murther laid to his Charge. He owned, that he and his Fellow-ſervant, *William Sparks*, were at Work that Morning, at Dung-cart; that *William* drove the Team, and ſpread the Dung on ſome Grounds, above half a Mile from the Dunghill, while he filled the ſpare Cart: That having filled it, he judged he might take a ſhort Nap before his Return with the empty one: That he fell aſleep as ſoon as he lay down, and juſt before *William* came with the Team, he waked, and ſaw the deceaſed lying on his Back, within ten Yards of him: That he heard no Noiſe, nor was there any Body in Sight, for he looked all round,

found, and verily believing the Gentleman had fallen into a Fit, he endeavoured to ſet him upright; and then, and not before, found he was wounded, by the blood running from him upon his Cloaths: That this was the very Truth, and all the Account he could give; for he never ſaw the murthered Gentleman before, therefore could not be ſuppoſed to be guilty of his Death, and deſired it might be conſidered, if he had done ſuch a wicked, cruel Action, he had Time to have made his Eſcape, before his Fellow-ſervant and Maſter came to apprehend him.

The Jury withdrew, and eleven of them without Heſitation were for bringing him in guilty; but the Foreman, *Mr. Higgens*, violently oppoſed it; uſed many Arguments to convince them, that it might be really true, that the Priſoner was aſleep, and the Murther committed with his Fork, while he was ſo; and that nothing incongruous appeared in his plain Defence; for in his Opinion he had rationally accounted for every Incident,

Incident, as well as the Blood on his Cloaths. Beſides, as the Deceaſed was not robbed, and the Priſoner did not make any Attempt to eſcape, he could never believe him guilty; but, on the contrary, he was firmly perſuaded he was innocent, and that he would ſooner ſtarve to Death, than concur with them in a Verdict againſt his Conſcience.

They continued more than two Hours debating, during which, the Buſineſs of the Court was ſuſpended, and many Conjectures made, what could detain them ſo long, on a Fact, almoſt every Body concluded the Priſoner would be juſtly convicted of. At length they returned into Court, where the Foreman acquainted the Judges, that they had not agreed on their Verdict: That eleven of his Brethren would have found the Priſoner guilty, but he could not conſent thereto, being himſelf certain of his Innocency; and the whole Court would ſoon be ſatisfied of it, by what he was now going to declare.

My

My Lord, continued he, that Morning Mr. *Oſborn* loſt his Life, I met that unhappy Gentleman about ſix o'Clock in a Field of mine, adjoining to one of his own. We wiſhed each other a good Morrow, walked, and converſed in a friendly manner about a Quarter of an Hour. He then ſhewed me a Tree that grew in the Hedge-row which parted our Lands, and claimed it as his Right (tho' it apparently belonged to me) ſaying, he would cut it down and convert the Timber into new Gates, which he much wanted.

I endeavoured to convince him that the Oak was my Property; yet I offered it him, if he thought fit to receive the Tree as a Preſent. I am ſorry to ſay, few Gentlemen of the Town can be unacquainted with his fiery Diſpoſition. Altho' we never had the leaſt Diſpute, or angry Word paſs between us before, he flew into an outrageous Paſſion, and uſed the moſt abuſive Language: Aſking, if I thought he would be ſo mean as to receive a Boon from me, or any other

other deſigning Scoundrel, unjuſtly pretending to Part of his Inheritance?

I replied, Mr. Alderman, I am ſurpriſed at ſuch Language from you, as it is rather befitting a Porter than a Gentleman. This, my Lord, was all the Anſwer I made to his Scurility. But he, well knowing the Superiority of his Strength, called me Villain, ſwearing he would make me dearly repent my Words, and followed his Abuſe with many Blows with his Stick. I retired ſeveral Yards, having nothing to defend myſelf withal; he ſtill followed, laying on unmercifully, even into the Lane, where I accidently ſaw the Priſoner aſleep, and the Dung-fork lying by him, which I haſtily ſnatched up, to keep my Adverſary at a Diſtance, and in endeavouring to wreſt it out of my Hands, he received his Death-wound, without the leaſt Intention on my Side of giving it. Obſerving the Priſoner to be ſtill aſleep, I laid down the Fork and returned home with inexpreſſible Concern at what had happened.—What I

have

have now declared, my Lord, is verbally true, and I freely ſurrender myſelf, as the unhappy Inſtrument that deprived Mr. *Oſborn* of his Life, and thereby acquit the poor Man that ſtands indicted for it. Him I intend to gratify for his long Impriſonment, and do ſolemnly proteſt my Deſign all along, was to make this Confeſſion at the Aſſizes, and not before, to prevent a long and tedious Confinement, which, in the ill State of Health I am in, might have been very prejudicial to me. As I had ſome Reaſon to believe I ſhould be Foreman of the Jury, I poſtponed my ſurrendering till after this Trial, that every Body, as well as myſelf, might be ſatisfied, whether an innocent Perſon, on ſuch ſtrong Circumſtances, would not have unjuſtly loſt his Life, as a guilty Criminal; and that this would have been the Priſoner's Caſe, there is now little Room to doubt.

All the Favour I have now to beg of your Lordſhip is, that my Trial may come on this Aſſize. As there are no Witneſſes to the unfortunate Tranſac-

tion

tion I charge myſelf withal, I humbly hope the general peaceable manner in which I have conſtantly behaved, and which will appear to your Lordſhip by the Teſtimonies of moſt of the Gentlemen of this Town, will induce you to think favourably of my Cauſe, without my loading the Memory of the Deceaſed with a contrary Diſpoſition.

The Court was in the utmoſt Surpriſe at this Declaration, and the Judges were ſo humane as to accept Bail, the Mayor and ſeveral other Gentlemen of Fortune, offering themſelves for that Purpoſe, and giving Mr. *Higgens* the Character of a worthy, inoffenſive Perſon.—Two Days afterwards he was tried, and the Jury, without going out of Court, brought in their Verdict Self Defence.

The old Gentleman had no ſooner made an End of his Relation, than the Clock ſtruck twelve. This alarmed him, and he got up in a reſpectful manner, paid his Compliments to the Company, exacting a Promiſe from each of them, that if their Affairs ſhould call them a-

gain into the Country, they would not forget to honour *Smithy Hall* (which was his Seat) with their Preſence: The Bride and Bridegroom alſo took a polite and genteel Leave, and went home in his Coach with him.

At *Saliſbury*, one of the Company left them, having Relations to viſit near that City. His Place was ſupplied by a well-bred young Lady, whom, in good Manners, they could not refuſe taking in, ſhe being diſappointed of going in the Town-ſtage; her Converſation proving very agreeable, made ample Amends for the Loſs of their Friend.

The End of VOL. II.